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P5 THINK

ROAD ACCIDENTS CLAIMED 713 LIVES IN J&K

As many as 713 people lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir in road accidents, a figure which is eight times more than those killed by bullets in the conflict ravaged region, official data reveals. As per the data compiled by the J&K Traffic Police

P7 MY 2021 BOOK RACK IN REVIEW

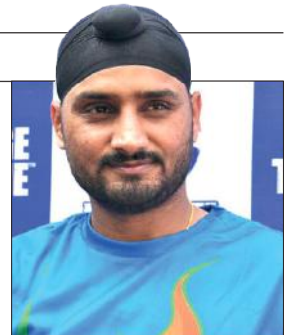
The year 2021 was erratically paced and so were our reading and retention. Still, I managed to sneak in some readings which have been valuable additions to my book collection. Here is a list of the best ones from 2021, from me to you. Challenging the long sedimented image of Indian



P11 SPORTS

HARBHAJAN SINGH RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET

Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who became the first Indian bowler to grab a Test hat-trick in a memorable international career, announced



Quote!

We build too many walls and not enough bridges

Isaac Newton

NEWS DIGEST

LG Grooms People On Christmas

JAMMU: The Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday greeted the people of Jammu & Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Christmas. In a message, the LG said the festival is a celebration of peace, love, hope and harmony, an official spokesperson said Friday. "Christmas provides an opportunity to celebrate the spirit **More on P10**

2 LeT Workers Held In Budgam

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from central Kashmir's Budgam district. Imran Majeed Magray and Aqib Amin Rather, both residents of Magray Mohalla Mochwa were arrested by a joint team of police, army's 50 RR and CRPF 181 battalion from Chadoora area **More on P10**

CASO Conducted In Beerwah

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Friday carried out a massive cordon and search operation (CASO) in Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Police, army and CRPF cordoned off main market Beerwah on Friday and launched a search operation **More on P10**

Grenade Found Near Cemetery

SRINAGAR: A grenade was found by locals during earth filling at a graveyard near Iqra Masjid here on Friday, officials said. The device was defused sans damage, they added. A police officer said that during earth filling at a graveyard near **More on P10**

Hizb Militant Killed In Anantnag Gunfight



File Photo

Shahzad Had Shot Dead 5 BJP Leaders And Workers, Inspector: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Hizbul Mujahideen militant responsible for shooting dead a police officer and five BJP leaders and workers, including a Sarpanch and his wife, was killed in an early morning encounter in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, police said Friday.

Police, army's counter-insurgency 1RR and the personnel of CRPF 90 battalion launched a cordon and search operation in Mominhall Aarwani area of Bijbehara on Friday morning

on the basis of specific information about the presence of a militant in the village, a police spokesperson said.

During the search operation, he said, as the presence of the trapped militant got ascertained, he was given ample opportunities to surrender. "However, he denied the surrender opportunities and instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter," he said.

In the ensuing encounter, the police spokesperson said, the holed-up militant Shahzad Ahmad Seh of Sehpura Kulgam was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of encounter.

As per police records, he said, Shahzad was a categorized militant linked with **More on P10**

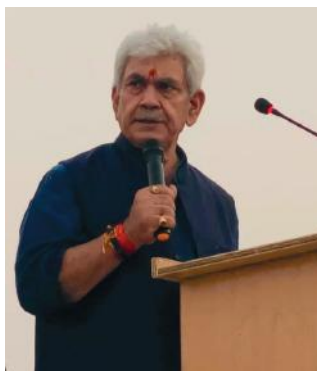
“HOWEVER, HE DENIED THE SURRENDER OPPORTUNITIES and instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter.”

Stone Pelting Has Become Thing Of Past: LG Says J&K Witnessing 'New Dawn' Under PM's Guidance

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Terming the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status as a historic day, the Union Territory Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday that his administration has succeeded in destroying the ecosystem of "terrorism" and stone pelting has become a thing of past.

"In J&K we have charted a new development path after August 2019. For decades, infrastructure was in tatters despite huge amount of money sent by the centre. The non-development agenda of seven decades in J&K mired the UT in a low growth syndrome," Sinha, as per



an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, was addressing the Utthan Foundation Trust's conference at Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG said that under the guidance of Prime Minister J&K was witnessing a new dawn

"Tribals are getting land rights, 11,000 government jobs have been provided within record time with complete transparency and major steps have been taken to ensure the empowerment of women, marginalized and weaker groups," Sinha said.

"Even today, projects pending since 1980 are being completed. Earlier, 2000 km of road was built, now 5000 km of road is being built. We have completed record 21,943 projects within a year. **More on P10**

J&K Records New 141 Fresh Covid Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases continue to show a surge in Jammu and Kashmir as 141 more people tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday in the Union Territory, while one more person succumbed to the deadly infection during the last 24 hours.

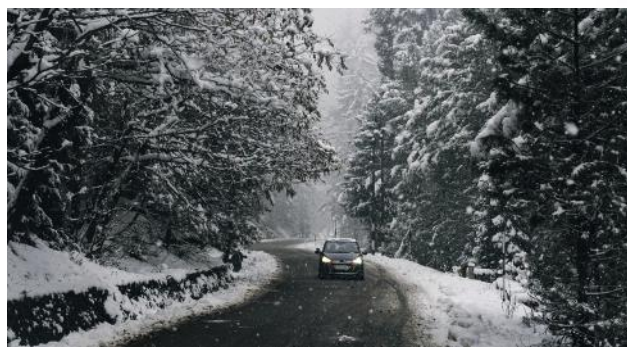
According to officials, 118 fresh cases of novel coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 23 from various districts of Jammu division, thus taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 340434.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported the highest 58 new cases of infection, Kupwara and Ganderbal **More on P10**



The Holy Family Catholic Church in Srinagar city is all decked up for Christmas celebrations. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Another Snow Spell In Kashmir From Sunday



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Friday predicted light to moderate snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir for over two days under the influence of

a western disturbance of greater intensity that is likely to hit the region on Sunday evening.

According to the meteorological department, the spell of greater intensity than Thursday's is **More on P10**

Kumar Reviews Power Dept's Preparedness

P rincipal Secretary, Power Development Department, Nitishwar Kumar on Friday reviewed the preparedness and redundancy for meeting any eventuality in case of disruption in power due to adverse weather conditions. According to an official spokesperson, Kumar on Friday visited the 140 MVA, 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station Cheshmashahi and convened a meeting of officers of KPDC and JKPTCL regarding preparedness in view of adverse **More on P10**

KU To Close For Winter Vacations From Jan 1

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The administration of Kashmir University on Friday announced winter vacations for main campus and all its satellite campuses from January 1, 2022.

"This is for the information of all concerned that the teaching Departments of the University and its satellite campuses shall observe winter vacations w.e.f 1st January, 2022 to 28th February 2022", reads a notification authenticated by Joint Registrar, Academic Affairs.

"However the Departmental offices shall function normally and the Heads of the Departments/Directors of Campuses/Centres shall ensure that the examinations, (if any) and other **More on P10**

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Govt Forms 5-Member Panel To Pick New SKIMS Director

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday constituted a five-member selection committee to choose a new Director for the premier healthcare institute of the Valley Sher-e-Kashmir institute of medical sciences (SKIMS).

According to an order issued here, Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta will be the Chairman of the selection committee while Dr Randeep Guleria, Director AIIMS, New Delhi, Dr Surjit Singh, Director, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh and Prof M. C. Mishra, Former Director, AIIMS New Delhi will be its members.

Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary,

Health & Medical Education Department, Vivek Bhardwaj, will be the member secretary of the selection panel.

According to the order, the selection committee has been tasked to prepare a panel of three candidates in order of merit as per the criteria laid down for making selection for the post of Director, SKIMS.

Pertinently, the health and medical education department has shortlisted 15 candidates for the post of director and Dr. Yogesh Kumar Sarin and Dr. Mohammad Saleem Wani have emerged as frontrunners for the prestigious post.

Other candidates who are in race include Dr. Nisar Ahmad Bhat, Deptt of Paediatric Research SKIMS, Soura, Dr. Altaf Umar Ramzan Professor & Head **More on P10**

NC To Move SC Against Delimitation Panel's Proposal

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: National Conference president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah said on Friday that his party is preparing to approach the Supreme Court against the Delimitation Commission's recommendations as it believes that the very basis of the exercise is "illegal".

The veteran politician, who has been chief minister of the erstwhile state three times as well as union minister, also said the time has come for the opposition parties to come together and fight the forces who are bent on destroying the secular fabric of the country.



Giving a detailed account of his interactions during the Delimitation Commission meeting earlier this week, Abdullah told PTI that the very first point raised "by us at the meeting was that the commission was illegal" **More on P10**

Soz Says Politicians Should Go To Public Not Court

F ormer Union Minister and senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz on Friday said that J&K's political class should "agitate the Delimitation Commission's latest recommendations before the people." In a statement issued here, Soz said it would certainly be a **More on P10**

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2 Covid Pills - But Who Should Get Them? The New Dilemma

Josh Wingrove | Bloomberg

The US has cleared its first two Covid-19 treatment pills, and now comes another hurdle -- deciding who should get which one.

Merck & Co.'s molnupiravir was authorised Thursday by the Food and Drug Administration for use in adults at high risk of severe cases who have no other treatment option, though it is not recommended for pregnant women. Still, the US will soon have 3 million courses available.

Meanwhile, Pfizer Inc.'s Paxlovid -- authorised earlier this week -- showed stronger clinical trial data with President Joe Biden hailing the pill as "a promising new treatment". It will be available in limited quantities at first as Pfizer grinds through a months-long manufacturing process.

Regulators are signaling they prefer Pfizer's pill, which they've bought more of, but the US will have a lot more early on of Merck's pill, which regulators say is better than no treatment. The coming weeks will see states and physicians hash out who gets what.

The US will have hundreds of thousands of Merck courses available immediately, and 3

million by the end of January, or roughly its entire order. Conversely, the US is expected to receive just 265,000 courses of the Pfizer treatment by the end of January, up to 2 million a month by spring and a total of 10 million by July. The initial shipment is just 65,000 courses, or about 3,180 for New York, for instance.

Mr Biden, speaking to ABC News this week, acknowledged that the Pfizer supply "won't be enough to get to all the hospitals" at first but that the government has ordered all that Pfizer can make so far. "If people get the shots, they get their two shots and a booster, they're not going to be in a position where they actually need such a pill," he said.

The National Institutes of Health's guidelines committee is putting together a list of recommendations on how to allocate treatments, and the US government will distribute the pill through channels that have been used for existing treatments -- sending them on a per-capita basis to states while also sending them to other entities, like federally qualified community health centers, in a bid to minimise any race gap in availability.

از نیابت ساگم یا اجلاس انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل ساگم درخواست منجانب: محمد اسلم کھٹانہ ، ہارون کھٹانہ و واجد کھٹانہ ساکنان ساگم بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	غلام قادر گنائی ولد محمد محمد گنائی	65 سال	زیمینداری	3000/=
2	سماءہ زہرہ گنائی زوجہ غلام قادر گنائی	62 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	پرویز احمد ولد غلام قادر گنائی	29 سال	زیمینداری	4000/=
4	شکوت احمد ولد غلام قادر گنائی	26 سال	زیمینداری	4000/=
5	امتیاز احمد ولد غلام قادر گنائی	21 سال	زیر تعلیم	
6	مسماہ رحمانہ زوجہ غلام قادر گنائی	30 سال	گھریلو کام	
7	رفعت خان زوجہ غلام قادر گنائی	31 سال	گھریلو کام	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 07 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت دیگام یا اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار دیگام انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل مشعور درخواست منجانب: عباد احمد مارگے ولد لالہ اس مارگے ساکنان ران بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر کی نسبت ساکن کے کفالت بغرض حصول ڈیپنڈنسی سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے جبکہ مطابق رپورٹ پیواری حلقہ ساکن کے کنبہ 6 افراد پر مشتمل ہے اور ہر احد ساکن عباد احمد مارگے ہی کفالت کے والا شخص ہے اور کنبہ کی فوٹو بھی کرتا ہے۔ اور جبکہ ساکن کو Department کی طرف سے Medical Claim کے لئے سرٹیفیکٹ دیا گیا ہے۔ جس میں ساکن کا والد مسی غلام اس مارگے ولد عباد احمد مارگے سے ہر عباد احمد مارگے کے ہی آمدنی پر مشعر ہے لہذا اس بارے میں کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ دفتر ہذا میں سات دان کے اندر اندر پیش کریں۔ بعد از معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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نائب تحصیلدار

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written in my Service Documents as Mohd Rafi Itoo S/o Nazir Ahamd Itoo R/o Pahalgam while my correct name is Rafi Ahamd Itoo S/O Nazir Ahamd Itoo R/o Pahalgam which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of District Floriculture Officer Anantnag Within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Rafi Ahamd Itoo
S/O Nazir Ahamd Itoo
R/o Pahalgam

RNA-r

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform general public that I have applied for pesticides license. IN this regard any person having any objection He/She may contact office of the PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after that.

Name: Sajad Ahmad Bhat
S/O: Ab Rahman Bhat
R/O: Kewa Qazigund

RNA

از نیابت ساگم یا اجلاس انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل ساگم درخواست منجانب: محمد اسلم کھٹانہ ، ہارون کھٹانہ و واجد کھٹانہ ساکنان ساگم بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	محمد اسلم کھٹانہ ولد بشیر احمد کھٹانہ بکروال	40 سال	مزدوری	
2	حفیظہ زوجہ محمد اسلم کھٹانہ	37 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	واجد حسین ولد محمد اسلم کھٹانہ	04 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	ہارون کھٹانہ ولد محمد اسلم کھٹانہ	08 سال	زیر تعلیم	
5	سیدہ جان دختر محمد اسلم کھٹانہ	10 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 05 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

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نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت ساگم یا اجلاس انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل ساگم درخواست منجانب: ضمیر حسین کھٹانہ ولد بشیر احمد کھٹانہ ساکنان ساگم بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
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نمبر شمار

نام و ولدیت

عمر

پیشہ

آمدنی

1

ضمیر حسین کھٹانہ ولد بشیر احمد کھٹانہ

30 سال

مزدوری

2

روبیہ جان زوجہ ضمیر حسین

29 سال

گھریلو کام

3

واجد احمد کھٹانہ ولد ضمیر حسین

03 سال

شیر خوار

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت ساگم یا اجلاس انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل ساگم درخواست منجانب: شادبختی و مہینہ جان اولاد عبدالغنی کمار ساکنان بکیرہ بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

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1	عبدالغنی ولد محمد احسن کمار	40 سال	مزدوری	5000/=
2	فاطمہ بانو زوجہ عبدالغنی کمار	37 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	شاہد احمد پیر عبدالغنی کمار	04 سال	زیر تعلیم	
4	عمر بیگم دختر عبدالغنی کمار	08 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 04 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت لارو یا اجلاس منظور احمد ہورہ نائب تحصیلدار انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل لارو درخواست منجانب: صوفی جان دختر عبدالعزیز بابا ساکنہ لیسو برنناز بغرض حصول بیک وارڈار یا RBA سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول بیک وارڈار یا سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
۱۔	رانیزہ زوجہ عبدالعزیز بابا	61 سال	گھریلو کام	
۲۔	محمد عباس بابا ولد عبدالعزیز	33 سال	نچر	
۳۔	الفت جان زوجہ محمد عباس	30 سال	گھریلو کام	
۴۔	گلشن اختر دختر عبدالعزیز	29 سال	گھریلو کام	
۵۔	شکیلہ دختر عبدالعزیز بابا	27 سال	زیر تعلیم	
۶۔	صوفی جان دختر عبدالعزیز بابا	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طرح ساکن کا کنبہ 06 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت ساگم یا اجلاس انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل ساگم درخواست منجانب: بشیر احمد کھٹانہ ولد مصری کھٹانہ ساکنان ساگم بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول ST سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	بشیر احمد کھٹانہ ولد مصری کھٹانہ	60 سال	عمر سیدہ	
2	شازدین زوجہ بشیر احمد کھٹانہ	57 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	انوار احمد ولد بشیر احمد کھٹانہ	30 سال	مزدوری	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت ساگم یا اجلاس انگریزیو مجسٹریٹ دجیو ایل ساگم درخواست منجانب: اید احمد کا ولد غلام رسول کمار ساکنان بکیرہ بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفیکٹ۔

اشتہار برآء گاہی بر خاص و عام۔
معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC سرٹیفیکٹ دفتر ہذا میں پیش کیا ہے جو کہ برکاردانی ہے۔ پیواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنبہ بذیل افراد ہیں۔

نمبر شمار	نام و ولدیت	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
1	غلام رسول ولد محمد احسن کمار	55 سال	مزدوری	
2	رتقیہ بانو زوجہ غلام رسول	52 سال	گھریلو کام	
3	زابد احمد کمار ولد غلام رسول	15 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور پر ساکن کا کنبہ 03 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا سرٹیفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہوگا وہ اپنا اعتراض ایک ہفتہ کے اندر دوران دفتری اوقات میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کرے۔ معیار و گزرنے بعد کو کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

RNA

نائب تحصیلدار

Press Release



Today on 24.12.2021 an awareness program on Labour Laws was organized at Kulgam, in collaboration with NGO M/S Voluntary Organization on Environmental & Socio-Economic Planning (VOSEEP) in which Mr. Ahmad Hussain Bhat worthy Dy Labour Commissioner, Kashmir, Dr. Adnan Tariq Assistant Labour Commissioner, Mr. Ajay Koul Labour Officer Kulgam, Miss Ruksana Sabir Labour Inspector Kulgam and other dignities were present and participated in the program. The worthy Deputy Labour Commissioner Kashmir discussed the important aspects pertaining to the Labour clause and made the laborers aware about their rights as guaranteed under constitution of India and in other Labour Laws. The Assistant Labour Commissioner, Kulgam highlighted the social schemes with related to the labour clause and assured the employees who participated in the event that they will be given first preference in acquiring the benefits guaranteed in different labour related schemes. The program was concluded with the vote of thanks from President VOSEEP and other colleagues.

RNA

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL ELYSIUM PUBLIC SCHOOL WANIHAMA ANANTNAG.

Subject:- Staff Statement as on 24/12/2021.				
S.No	Name of the official	Qualification	Designation	Salary per month
01	Irshad Ahmad Parrey	M.SC, M.ED	Principal	7000
02	Aabid Maqbool	M.Sc, .M.ed	Teacher	6000
03	Javaid Majeed	M.A.B.ed	Teacher	6000
04	Nazima Nazir	M.A	Teacher	3500
05	Nusrat Jan	M.A.B.ed	Teacher	3500
06	Muzamil Jan	M.A	Teacher	350
07	Shaheena Akhter	C.PED	Teacher	3000
08	Sajad Ahmad	B.SC	Teacher	3000
09	Gazala Mohi Ud Din	M.A	Teacher	3000
10	Jasia Jan	M.A	Teacher	3000
11	Ifra Bashir	B.SC	Teacher	3000
12	Arooj Rashid	M.A	Teacher	3000
13	Jeeonfar Muneer	B.A	Junior Assistant	3000
14	Shobey Jan	Middle	Peon	2000

RNA

Sd/- Chairman

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES
YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE
Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.
Contact:-0194-3550112
G-mail- yardimcunique92@gmail.com
I.G: yardimci_multi_venture
F.B: yardimci multiVenture

ELECTRONICS
TOX MOBILE STORE
All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories
Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-7889657769

TECH WORLD
All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.
Sannat Nagar Srinagar
Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

ELYSIUM PUBLIC SCHOOL , WANIHAMA ANANTNAG

The list of Proposed Panel of Managing Body is as under:

S. No	Name & Parentage with Residence	Qualification	Occupation	Designation	Phone No
1	Gh Nabi Parray S/o: Gh Ahmad Parray R/o: Wanihama Ang.	Matric	Business	Chairman	9858084786
2	Irshad Ahmad Parrey S/o: Mohd Ramzan Parrey R/o: Wanihama Anantnag.	M.Sc M.ed	Principal of the School	Member	9797806824
3	Ishfaq Ahmad Koka S/o: Gh Qadir Koka R/o: Wanihama Anantnag	12TH	Business	Member/Parent	8899959830
4	Gh Mohi Ud Din Parray S/o: Ab Rashid Parray R/o: Wanihama Anantnag	Matric	Business	Member	9906726325
5	Bilal Ahmad Parray S/o: Ab Rashid Parray R/o: Wanihama Anantnag	8TH	Business	Member/Parent	9906886630

Note:- I am going to get the approval of Managing Body to be approved by the Director of School Education Kashmir Srinagar. If anybody has any sort of objection regarding in this matter he/she may file the same within a week's time of the date of publication in Directorate of School Education Srinagar.

Fee Structure of the School					
S.No	Class	Tution	Building Fund	Red Cross	Games Library
1	KG's	350	05	12	05 05
2	1st -5th	400	30	12	15 10
3	6th -8th	450	50	12	10 15

RNA

Sd/- Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the RC of my Motor Cycle Bearing Regd No:-JK03L138. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG. Within a period of seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.

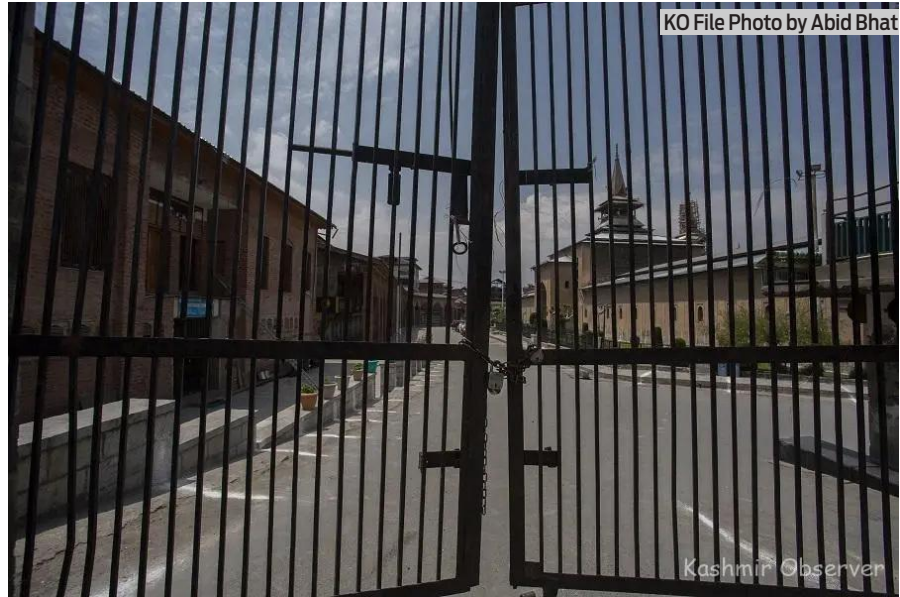
Name :- Gulzar Ahmad Shah
S/o :- Ghulam Hassan Shah
R/O:- Hugam Rigufwara Anantnag

RNA

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20 Weeks On, No Friday Prayers at Jamia Masjid



Observer News Service

Srinagar: Authorities on Friday stopped congregational Friday prayers at historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar for the 20th consecutive week.

Jamia Masjid, the 14th century building, is the only major place of worship in the valley closed for congregational prayers by the authorities.

The officials did not give any reason for the continuous closure of the mosque, which was shut down initially in August 2019 in the wake of abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre.

The mosque was briefly opened in December 2019 but closed again in April as part of the gov-

We are unable to understand that on the one hand, all the places of worship, mosques, shrines, imambargahs and khanqahs in Jammu and Kashmir are open for Friday prayers, but only Jamia Masjid Srinagar continues to be selectively banned

ernment curbs on large gatherings to combat the COVID wave.

Prayers were allowed on first Friday of August this year but since then the mosque has been closed.

Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid Srinagar, which manages the affairs of the mosque, expressed strong resentment over the decision.

"The Anjuman and the Muslims of Kashmir are unable to understand that on the one hand, all the places of worship, mosques, shrines, imam-

bargahs and khanqahs in Jammu and Kashmir are open for Friday prayers, but only Jamia Masjid Srinagar continues to be selectively banned and restricted from holding Friday prayers, which is extremely unfortunate and incomprehensible," the Anjuman said in a statement.

It said the decision to close the mosque tantamount to sheer interference in religion and hurting the religious sentiments and feelings of Muslims.

This is unacceptable," it added.

Noted Drill Master Nazir D No More

Observer NEWS SERVICE

Srinagar: Srinagar city lost its multifaceted personality and artist, sportsman and drill master Nazir Ahmad better known as Nazir D who led Scouts and Guides Programme in J&K for several years.

The deceased was suffering from chronic lung disease for some time and breathed his last on Friday.

Nazir was known for his teaching skills with locals saying that it is because of him that the most of the people living in downtown areas are qualified and are currently



holding good positions.

"Nazir Sir was not only a teacher, but a fatherly figure for many. He bore the educational expenses of many students who were not able to get education due to financial problems," said Umar Iqbal late Nazir's one time student and now president of Private Diagnostic Centres

Association.

Nazir, who was a resident of Laigardoori Eidgah was known for his teaching skills, Umar said, adding that one cannot imagine the way and methods he was using to make the students understand.

Nazir D had a long association with Shaheen Public School Srinagar for several decades.

The funeral prayers for the deceased teacher were held at 2:15 PM at Fakeer Maqbar, Waniyar Chowk Noor Bagh.

Notably, Nazir is father of a social activist, Uman Omer.

Cop Mowed Down By Load Carrier Dies

Observer News Service

Srinagar: A policeman mowed down by a load carrier in the Rainawari area of this capital city early this month, succumbed to his injuries at the SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) here on Friday.

Head Constable Iftikhar Hussain, who was critically injured after being hit by a load carrier at a checkpoint near Zindshah Masjid crossing on December 13, succumbed to his injuries at the SKIMS on Friday, re-

ports said. Hussain was undergoing treatment at the tertiary care hospital for the last ten days.

CCTV footage of the accident shows a load carrier knocking down Hussain when he was engaged in a conversation with a car driver. A woman pedestrian survived miraculously in the accident.

Meanwhile, Police have registered a case FIR number 69/2014 under relevant sections of law and arrested the driver identified as Showkat Ismail Langoo, a resident of Hassanabad.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir J&K Services Selection Board Hema Complex, Sector-3, Channi Himmat, Jammu (www.jkssb.nic.in)

Notification for Driving Test Final Phase.

It is notified for the information of all concerned that:

1) In continuation to this office Notice Nos SSB/Secy/Driver/2021/6375-87 Dated 27-09-2021 and SSB/Secy/Driver/2021/7728-41 dated 18-11-2021, it is notified for the information of candidates that the DRIVING-TEST of left out candidates shown in Annexure "A" and "B" to this notification who have applied for the posts of Driver/Tractor Driver, in different Cadres/Departments in pursuance to the Advertisement Notification Nos 04, 05, 06, 07 of 2020, 01, 02 and 03 of 2021, shall be conducted w.e.f 01-01-2022 onwards as per dates shown against each at Annexure "A" (Jammu Venue based candidates) at State Motor Garages, New Plot, Jammu and for Annexure "B" (Kashmir Venue based candidates) at State Motor Garages, Bemina, Srinagar of this notification.

2) This notification alongwith detailed list of candidates called for driving test (i.e. annexure "A" and "B") is ALSO AVAILABLE on the official website of the Board, i.e. www.jkssb.nic.in

3) The additional qualifications / reserved category certificate acquired by the candidate after the last date of receipt of application forms shall not be entertained;

4) Mere figuring of name in the list does not entitle the candidate to appear in the driving test as it shall be subject to the scrutiny of all testimonials of the candidates shortlisted.

5) No further driving test call letter shall be issued to any candidate whose names figure in the said list and they are required to appear before the driving test committee on the schedule date & time. A candidate, who fails to appear in the driving test on the given date, shall not be put to driving test later and such candidate shall forfeit his right of consideration later.

6) In case of any deficiency with reference to eligibility, etc is proved at the time of driving test, the candidate shall not be allowed to appear in the driving test, or if any deficiency is found subsequently the candidate shall not be considered for selection and will be treated as disqualified.

7) The candidate shall have to produce all original certificates / testimonials as asked for vide above referred advertisement notification before the committee at the time of driving test. The candidates who fail to produce such certificates / testimonials may forfeit their candidature.

8) Any candidate found guilty of impersonating or submitting fabricated / tampered documents / testimonials or making false, incorrect or suppressing material information shall render him / her liable for criminal prosecution under law and may be debarred permanently or for a specific period for consideration of any or all recruitments made by the Board. Also canvassing / lobbying in any form will entail disqualification of the candidate.

9) The Driving Test is of qualifying nature and the candidate(s) who qualify the Driving Test shall be considered for the Written Test.

10) No TA/DA shall be paid for participation in the Driving Test.

NOTE:

a) The candidates are advised to bring Photostat copy of each certificate self-attested for depositing with the Board at the time of Driving Test in addition to original documents.

b) Each of these candidates are advised to bring photocopy of the application form generated online at the time of submission of application form for these post(s) by him / her.

c) The candidates have been included in the driving test list provisionally and only such candidates shall be allowed to appear in the Driving Test Committee who are within age, possesses valid category certificates and possesses the prescribed qualification before cut of date.

(Sachin Jammal) JKAS

Secretary

J&K Services Selection Board

Jammu

DIPK-15495/21

No. SSB/Secy/Driver/2021/8975-87

Dated: 22-12-2021

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir Exhibition Grounds (Kashmir Haat) Srinagar -190001

Subject: Final seniority list of Designer (SoD), Divisional Cadre Kashmir as it stood on 01.11.2021.

ORDER NO:- 777 DHHK of 2021

DATED:- 20 .12.2021

Whereas, tentative seniority list of Designers, (School of Designs) Divisional Cadre Kashmir, as it stood on 01.11.2021, was issued / circulated for information of all the concerned vide No. DHHK/Estt/C/8138-42, dated 03.11.2021.

Whereas, objections, if any, were invited from the concerned officials through their concerned Head of the office / Drawing and Disbursing Officers within 21 days from the date of issue of this circular.

Whereas, no objection / representation has been received from any of the quarter on the subject matter till date.

Now therefore, final seniority list Designers (School of Designs) Divisional Cadre, Kashmir forming Annexure - A to this order is hereby issued / circulated for information of all the concerned.

Sd/-

DIRECTOR,

Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir.

NO. DHHK/Estt/C/9462-65

Dated 20 .12.2021

Annexure A

Final seniority list of Designers (SoD), Divisional Cadre Kashmir in Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir in the Pay Level-6E (35900-113500), as it stood on 01.11.2021

S.No.	Name of the Official	Category	Date of Birth	Date of Ist appointment	Date of appointment in the present grade	Remarks
1	Nissar Ahmad Bhat	OM	01.08.1962	05.08.1997	01.07.2006	
2	Shaheen Bhat	OM	17.03.1973	26.10.2009	26.10.2009	

Note:-

1. The date of birth of the above officials is subject to further verification of service records.
2. Errors and omissions are accepted. However, if any noticed may be brought to the notice of the Department for rectification.

Sd/-

Joint Director,

Handicrafts & Handicrafts, Kashmir

DIPK-15477/21

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,245222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200



AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153



HIGHWAY STATUS



Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
Mughal Road - (Closed)
Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)



HIJRI
CALENDAR
20 Jumada al-awwal
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR 6: 44

ZUHR 12:17

ASR 3:47

Magrib 5:27

ISHA 6: 51

This Day In History

1973 - 3 Palestinians hijack KLM B747 above Iraq, to Dubai.

1979 - Israel returns Alma oilfields in Gulf of Suez to Egypt.

1983 - Soyuz T-9 returns to Earth, 149 days after take-off.

1983 - Syria & Saudi Arabia announce cease-fire in PLO civil war in Tripoli.

1983 - World's greatest robbery 26 million pounds worth of gold, diamonds & cash stolen from the Brink's-Mat warehouse at Heathrow Airport, England.

1986 - Iran-Contra affair erupts, President Reagan reveals secret arms deal.

1987 - Supertyphoon Nina pummels the Philippines with category 5 winds of 165 mph and a surge that swallows entire villages. at least 1,036 deaths attributed to the storm.

2005 - Polish Minister of National Defence Radek Sikorski opens Warsaw Pact archives to historians. Maps of possible nuclear strikes against Western Europe, including nuclear annihilation of 43 Polish cities by Soviet-controlled forces revealed.

2007 - The first European Parliament election and a referendum on changing the voting system (called by the President and declared invalid because of insufficient turnout) were held in Romania.

2009 - Flooding in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; powerful storm brings 3 years worth of rain in 4 hours, killing over 150 people and sweeping thousands of cars away during Hajj.

2011 - Sudden violent storms strike southern Sri Lanka, killing 27 people and drowning many fishermen caught by surprise. Thousands of homes lose their roofs and several more sustain damage. Landslides along with flooding was reported on the mainland.

2012 - 16 people are killed and 44 injured after a wedding party bus plunges 300 ft down a gorge in India.

2013 - 17 people are killed and 37 are wounded in a cafe bombing in Baghdad, Iraq.

2014 - US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel resigns, ending nearly two years in the Pentagon's top job.

From KO Archives

Guns fail to fall silent

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hours after the Ramadhan ceasefire announced by the Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, came into effect, reports of escalated violence have come in from various areas shattering the prospects of unilateral truce. Eighteen people, including six security personnel, were killed and 23 others were injured in separate incidents across the state since early morning today.

In a major incident, four security personnel were killed and 14 others were injured when a powerful explosion ripped apart the vehicle they were travelling in at Nowpora-Doora, 74 km from here on Srinagar-Verinag road in the south Kashmir district of Anantnag this afternoon, official sources said. Condition of most of the wounded soldiers were reported to be critical. The incident took place around 2 p.m.

Officials said militants detonated the improvised explosive device (IED) immediately after the army vehicle carrying jawans of 36 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) passed over it. The explosion was possibly triggered by using a remote control device. The vehicle was blown up killing four jawans and injuring 14 others. All the wounded soldiers were rushed to the base hospital here.

Soon after the incident, the security forces laid siege to the entire area after which fear gripped the people. But no searches had been carried out till the reports last came in.

No Jet up in Begaar, frisking Hizb-ul-Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the incident and said they would intensify the attacks during the month of Ramadhan. Hizb spokesman, Salim Hashmi, telephoned reporters in Srinagar to claim the responsibility for the blast.

"The unilateral ceasefire announced by the Indian government is not a serious effort, but an attempt to ward off international pressure on it to resolve the Kashmir issue," he alleged.

A NAFSA report said a foreign militant identified as Tanzeel-ur-Rahman alias Abu Zareen, belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba was killed in an encounter with the troops of 28 RR at Atri Naribal in Rafiabdd area of Baramulla district today.

Rajinder Singh reports from Jammu: Barely an hour after the ceasefire came into force, nine people, including two security personnel and five militants, were killed in a gun battle at Dhana-Sawjian village in the border district of Poonch. Eight civilians were also injured in the encounter.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 25 NOVEMBER, 2000)

Iranian Diplomats Receive Saudi Visas As Iran-Saudi Talks Advance

TEHRAN: Three Iranian diplomats have received visas from rival Saudi Arabia allowing them to take up posts at the headquarters of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah, officials said Friday.

Shiite-majority Iran and the Sunni Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, both members of the pan-Islamic body, have held several rounds of talks since April aimed at improving relations.

In 2016, the kingdom's execution of revered Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr saw protesters attack Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran. Riyadh responded at the time by cutting ties with Tehran, while OIC foreign ministers condemned the violence.

to grant visas to three Iranian diplomats as part of a routine procedure for representatives of a member state of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)," a Saudi foreign ministry official said Friday.

Amir-Abdollahian, at a joint press conference in Tehran on Thursday with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein, said Baghdad had supported the move.

"Thanks to the efforts of Fuad Hussein and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi, we will participate in the next round of talks between Tehran and Riyadh in Baghdad," he said.

"I thank the Iraqi government for its efforts to help resolve misunderstandings and restore



Riyadh and Tehran support opposite sides in several conflict zones across the region, but Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and officials in Saudi Arabia confirmed visas had been approved for the diplomats.

"Saudi Arabia has agreed

Tehran-Riyadh relations to normal," Amir-Abdollahian added.

"We are ready to send technical delegations to restore relations to normal," he said.

The Jeddah-based OIC has 57 members and describes itself as the collective voice of the Muslim world. **AFP**

With 401,000 New Permanent Residents, Canada Meets "Ambitious" Target



Agencies

Canada met its target of granting 401,000 foreigners permanent residency in 2021 by focusing its efforts on temporary residents already in the country, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser said on Thursday.

Canada, which depends on immigration to drive its economy and support an aging population, saw new permanent residents falling over 45% to 185,000 in 2020, when borders were largely closed due to COVID-19.

The majority of the new 401,000 permanent residents - a figure reached for the first time in more than a century - were already in Canada on temporary status, according to

a statement from the immigration minister.

"Last year, we set an ambitious goal. Today, we achieved it," Fraser said.

Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government has relied on immigration to boost the Canadian economy since coming to power in 2015, setting an annual target of about 1% of the country's population of nearly 38 million.

The government has said it hopes to add 411,000 new permanent residents next year.

Official data released earlier on Thursday showed Canada's economy likely expanded for the sixth consecutive month in November, coming very close to pre-pandemic levels.



PALESTINIAN SCOUT BAND MEMBERS PARADE through Manger Square at the Church of the Nativity, traditionally believed to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ. (Photo | AP)

Coronavirus Dampens Christmas Joy In Biblical Bethlehem

Associated Press

BETHLEHEM: The biblical town of Bethlehem is gearing up for its second straight Christmas Eve hit by the coronavirus with small crowds and grey, gloomy weather dampening celebrations Friday in the traditional birthplace of Jesus.

A ban on nearly all incoming air traffic by Israel, the main entry point for foreign visitors heading to the occupied West Bank, kept international tourists away for a second consecutive year. The ban is meant to slow the spread of the highly contagious omicron variant, which has shaken Christmas celebrations around the world.

Instead, local authorities were counting on the Holy Land's small Christian community to lift spirits.

LAST YEAR, OUR FESTIVAL was virtual, but this year it will be face to face with popular participation,"

Bethlehem's mayor, Tony Salaman, said the town was optimistic that 2021 would be better than last year's Christmas when even local residents stayed home due to lockdown restrictions. Bethlehem planned a return of its traditional marching band parades and street celebrations.

"Last year, our festival was virtual, but this year it will be face to face with popular participation," Salaman said.

Police erected barricades early Friday as scout bands marched through Manger Square banging drums and

holding flags ahead of the expected arrival from Jerusalem of Latin Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the top Roman Catholic clergyman in the Holy Land.

Pizzaballa was scheduled to celebrate Midnight Mass at the nearby Church of the Nativity, which houses the grotto where Christians believe Jesus was born.

About 100 tourists, nearly all of them Palestinians, milled about behind the barricades to celebrate the occasion.

Before the pandemic, Bethlehem would host thousands of Christian pilgrims from around the world, bringing a strong dose of holiday spirit to the town and a huge jolt to the local economy. The loss of international tourism has hit Bethlehem's hotels, restaurants and gift shops especially hard.

Booster No Later Than 3 Months After Two Doses, Says France

It Also Recommended That The Booster Rollout Be Expanded To Now Include Teenagers Who Are Deemed To Be At Risk.

Agence France-Presse

PARIS: France on Friday recommended that adults receive a Covid-19 booster vaccination three months after their initial jabs, reducing the current guideline of five months to better fight the Omicron variant.

The recommendation was published by the country's HAS health authority, which advises the government in the fight against Covid-19.



It also recommended that the booster rollout be expanded

to now include teenagers who are deemed to be at risk.

11 Dead As Ship Carrying Migrants Sinks Off Greece Coast

Agence France-Presse

ATHENS: The death count from a migrant boat sinking off Greece rose to 11 on Friday, as scores of others, including dozens of children, were rescued, the coastguard said.

The boat carrying migrants ran aground on an islet north of the Greek island of Antikythera on Thursday evening.

Eleven bodies have been recovered so far and another 90 people stranded on the islet were rescued overnight, an official from the coast guard told AFP.

Those rescued include 27 children, 11 women and 52 men. "The search and rescue operation continues, as it is still not clear how many were on the boat before it sank," the official said.

Thursday's shipwreck came the day after a dinghy carrying

Thirteen people were rescued, while dozens remain missing, Greek authorities said.

Survivors gave conflicting accounts with some saying there were 32 people aboard, while others put the number at around 50, a coastguard official told AFP.

The UN refugee agency UNHCR said the Folegandros accident was the worst in the Aegean Sea this year.

"This shipwreck is a painful reminder that people continue to embark on perilous voyages in search of safety," said Adriano Silvestri, the UNHCR's assistant representative in Greece.

The UNHCR estimates that more than 2,500 people have died or gone missing at sea in their attempt to reach Europe from January through November this year.

Nearly one million people,



migrants capsized off the island of Folegandros, killing at least three people.

mainly Syrian refugees, arrived in the EU in 2015 after crossing to Greek islands close to Turkey.

37 Dead In Bangladesh As Packed Ferry Catches Fire: Police



Agence France-Presse

DHAKA: At least 37 people died when an overcrowded night ferry caught fire in Bangladesh on Friday, police said, as terrified passengers leaped overboard to escape the blaze.

The latest maritime tragedy to hit the impoverished low-lying nation happened in the early hours in a river near Jhalokathi, 250 kilometres (160 miles) south of Dhaka.

"We have recovered 37 bodies. The death toll may rise. Most died from the fire and a few by drowning after many people jumped into the river," local police chief Moinul Islam told AFP.

The blaze was believed to have originated in the engine room and ripped through the ferry, Islam said. Despite having an official capacity of 310 the vessel was carrying at least 500 people, many of who were returning home from the capital.

"We have sent some 100 people with burn injuries to hospi-

tals in Barisal," he said. Witnesses said the fire originated at around 3:00 am (2100 GMT) and quickly spread.

"We were sleeping on a mat on the ground floor deck. All the passengers were sleeping. My nine-year-old grandson, Nayeem, was with me, he jumped into the river. I don't know what happened to him," said an elderly grandmother.

Other survivors said they saw a small fire in the engine room as soon as the packed ferry set off from the Sadarghat river station in Dhaka at 9:00 pm on Thursday.

"A lot of people ran for safety as the fire spread. A lot of people could not get out of their cabins where they were sleeping. Many jumped into the river," said another survivor at Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Johar Ali, the local district administrator, said rescuers arrived at the scene within an hour after the fire broke out and rushed the injured to nearby hospitals.

NEWS MAKERS

Chinese Officials Punished Over Covid Outbreak In Locked Down City

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING: Dozens of officials have been punished over a virus outbreak in the locked-down city of Xi'an, China's disciplinary body said Friday - the latest state reprimands under Beijing's strict zero-Covid approach.

China, where the coronavirus was first detected in late 2019, is on high alert for new infections as it prepares to hold the Winter Olympics in February in the capital Beijing.

The world's most populous nation has reduced cases to a minimum thanks to a zero-Covid strategy of tight border restrictions, lengthy quarantines and targeted lockdowns.

But cases have been bubbling up in recent weeks -- with Xi'an, home to the world-famous Terracotta Warriors, telling all 13 million residents to stay home from Thursday,



shuttering businesses and launching several rounds of mass testing.

The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection said Friday that 26 Communist Party officials had been punished for "insufficient rigour in preventing and controlling the outbreak".

Xi'an reported another 49 cases on Friday, bringing the total outbreak to more than 250 in recent weeks.

Chinese officials who are

deemed to have failed at controlling the virus in their region are regularly sacked or reprimanded.

The statement said inspections had revealed there had been a lax approach to testing and an uncoordinated response that hindered contact tracing in Xi'an.

Authorities would clamp down on "bureaucratic issues in disease control work such as shirking responsibility, not taking action, passing the buck and dealing

with things in a negative way", a Party discipline official said.

A party secretary in Inner Mongolia was sacked after his area was hit by a cluster of cases in October, while the head of Zhengzhou city's health commission was sacked in August after cases this summer.

Cases from Xi'an have so far spread to five other cities including Beijing, according to state media -- fuelling fears about how quickly the virus can spread geographically across the vast country.

Under lockdown rules, since Thursday all households in Xi'an have only been permitted to send one member outside every two days to purchase necessities.

Residents who want to leave the city must first apply for approval, while major venues including the museum housing the Terracotta Army -- the mausoleum of China's first emperor -- have been shut until further notice.

Australian Man Banned From Leaving Israel Until December 31, 9999, Here's Why!



Agencies

An Australian citizen has been barred from leaving Israel, even for holidays, trapping him in the country for nearly 8000 years, after his Israeli wife filed a divorce case against him.

A local court had issued a "stay-of-exit" to Noam Huppert (44) back in 2013, bar-

ring him from leaving the country until December 31, 9999, or until he pays more than \$3 million in future child support payments.

According to a news report, Huppert, who works as an analytical chemist for a pharmaceutical company, moved to Israel in 2012 to stay closer to his two young children after his former spouse returned to

the country the previous year. Soon after her return, she filed a case in an Israeli court under the divorce law.

The local law has been dubbed "draconian and excessive" by human rights groups. "I am locked since 2013," news.com.au quoted Huppert as saying.

Reports claim that an independent journalist has been working on the issue to raise awareness about this law. But journalists suggested there could be "hundreds" of Australian citizens in the same situation.

The relatively obscure aspect of Israeli divorce law attracts little attention inside the country and even less outside of it. A woman can easily put a travel ban on her husband, with a demand for child support which can extend to the entire duration of the childhood.

Govt Orders Creation Of ‘Witness Protection Fund’

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir has ordered the creation of a corpus fund to be known as the “witness protection fund” for meeting the expenses of the “witness protection scheme”-2018.

In an order, the UT’s Home department has ordered creation of the “witness protection fund” for meeting expenses incurred on the implementation of the “witness protection order(s)” passed by the competent authority and related expenditure.

The fund shall be operated by the director general of police, who shall also initiate proceedings for recovery of the expenditure incurred from the witness protection fund in cases of false complaint(s), the order states.

The move comes after the J&K government ordered that the witness protection scheme shall be deemed come into force in UT from December 5, 2018.

The scheme identifies a series of measures to be adopted to safeguard witnesses and their family members from intimidation and threats against their lives, reputation and property.

The protection will be on the basis of an order passed by a standing committee on the basis of ‘threat analysis reports’ that police submit to them. The standing committee in each district would be headed by district and sessions and the police head in the district would be its member and head of the prosecution in the district as member secretary.

In another order, the government ordered that the deputy director(s) prosecution shall be member secretaries of the standing committees for the districts under their charge as provided under clause (2) (C) of the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018.

As per the scheme, the witness protection measures shall be proportionate to the threat and shall be for a specific duration not exceeding three months at a time—(KNO)

H&ME Dept Identifies Posts For NHM Contractual Covid Nurses

Agencies

JAMMU: Acting on the instructions of Lieutenant Governor, the Health and Medical Education Department has identified about 96 vacancies of nurses for the NHM contractual Covid nurses in various hospitals of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a communique in this regard, these posts include 36 in Government Medical College, Jammu and 18 under the Directorate of Health Services,

Kashmir, apart from vacancies in Doda, Baramulla, Rajouri, Anantnag. It is expected that the vacancies would be advertised soon and these contractual employees shall be given preference in the recruitment process.

Pertinently, LG had assured the nurses and other para-medical staff that their contracts would be extended by three months. He had also announced that they will be given priority in recruitment of various posts in H&ME Department. (GNS)

3 Tourists, Driver Hurt In Gulmarg Accident

SRINAGAR: Three tourists and a local driver were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district on Friday afternoon.

Reports said that a Sumo vehicle bearing registration number JK05D 2892 on way to Gulmarg skidded off the road near Hilltop Crossing, resulting in injuries to four persons, according to news agency GNS. The injured have been identified as Sania Hyder, Syed Wasi Hyder and Nidhat Fatima all residents of Kolkatta, West Bengal and driver of the vehicle Showkat Ahmad.

A police official confirming the incident said that all the injured have been evacuated to a nearby health facility for treatment. Meanwhile it has been learnt that Sania Hyder with head injuries has been referred to JVC hospital Srinagar for preferential treatment.

Chief Secretary Greet People On Christmas

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Friday extended greetings to people on the occasion of Christmas.

In his message on the eve of Christmas, the Chief Secretary, as per an official spokesperson said that Christianity teaches the principles of truthfulness, honesty, harmony, and sacrifice. He hoped that the festival shall bring greater peace and prosperity, and inspire people from all faiths to emulate the teachings of love and compassion for all.

“Keeping in view the emergence of Omicron, the Chief Secretary urged people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour including mask-wearing, social distancing, and hand hygiene,” he said.

Road Accidents Claimed 713 Lives In J&K



Agencies

SRINAGAR: As many as 713 people lost their lives in Jammu and Kashmir in road accidents, a figure which is eight times more than those killed by bullets in the conflict ravaged region, official data reveals.

As per the data compiled by the J&K Traffic Police Department, 5036 accidents happened in J&K from January to November in 2021, in which 713 persons were killed and 6447 were injured.

“589 accidents were reported fatal and 4447 non-fatal,” the figures reveal, adding that 3278 accidents happen only in Jammu, in which 521 persons were killed and 4241 injured. “102 persons were killed and 1175 injured in Jammu district, 76 killed and 536 injured in Kathua, and 63 persons were killed and 313 injured in Ramban,” the data reveals.

In Kashmir, the figures suggest that 1758 accidents took place since January 2021 in which 192 persons were killed and 2206 injured. “36 persons were killed and 333 injured in Srinagar, 25 were killed and 140 injured in

Kulgam, and 21 persons were killed and 340 injured in Anantnag district,” the data states.

The figures state that in 2017, 926 were killed and the injured persons were 7419. “In 2018, 984 people were killed and 7845 injured. “In 2019, a total of 996 persons were killed, 7532 were injured. In 2020, 728 people were killed, while 5894 were injured,” the figures reveal.

Pertinently, the deaths caused by road accidents in J&K in 2021 are much higher than those killed by bullets. The figures revealed in the Parliament recently stated that 75 people including 40 civilians and 35 security forces personnel were killed in militancy related in Kashmir in the year 2021 (upto November 31).

Superintendent of Traffic Police for Rural Kashmir Manzoor Ahmed Mir said that rash driving and violation of traffic rules are the basic reasons for rising accidents in rural areas of Kashmir. “People resort to rash driving and often resort to violation of traffic rules which ultimately result in accidents which at times turn fatal,” Mir said. “Jumping of signals

in one of the biggest reasons responsible for accidents.”

He, however, said that on the spot challans and speed guns are proving to be major tools to prevent accidents. “People should develop traffic sense,” Mir said.

Hit-and-run cases are on the rise in Kashmir, said Junaid Nazir, a Road Safety Expert. “But in this case, the entire fault doesn’t lie on the traffic cop who remains on the road for manning the traffic. The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) should play a major role as it is the only department that has a right to suspend the licence,” he said, adding that “MVD has a Road Safety Cell under Road Safety Policy (RSP) that is not being implemented. Police don’t have funds to create awareness.”

He said that preventing rash driving is all about safety tools. “We need intercepting vehicles, safety vehicles, high speed cameras and other latest gadgets. I wonder why traffic department is not utilising funds to procure latest gadgets,” he said, adding that “minimising road distance will definitely help bring down the accident rate in the Valley.”

Over 350 Students Of NIIT Received Job Offers

280 Placed In Different Firms During 2021-22 Placement Sessions

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over 350 students of National Institute of Srinagar (NIT) got job offers, while 280 students were placed in different companies across the country during 2021-22 placement sessions, officials said.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof Rakesh Sehgal extended his greetings to the students and stated that the institute is committed to serve society in all spheres of technology, a NIT statement said.

“Despite various challenges, the Training and Placement Department led by Dr. Obbu Chanda Sekhar played a vital role in placements and prepared students to get placement in well reputed companies,” he said.

Prof. Sehgal said in the rapidly changing ecosystem, it is very important to focus on the skills and knowledge that are relevant to the future. NIT Srinagar

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Kaiser Bukhari stated campus placements provide the students with a foot-in-the-door opportunity, enabling them to start off their career right after they have completed their course curriculum.

“Placements have gradually become an integral part of an institute’s offerings, which was not the scenario earlier. NIT Srinagar will continue such placement seasons in future, so that more students

would be placed,” he said.

Head Department of Training and Placements and Placement Officer, Dr. Obbu Chandra Sekhar

out batch, despite Covid19 more than 250 students were placed and over 135 companies conducted the interviews in virtual mode

Won’t Tolerate Controversial Content In Books: PSAJK

‘4 Out Of 5 Books Already Banned, Full Scrutiny Of Content Of Books In Process’

SRINAGAR: Private Schools’ Association Jammu and Kashmir Friday condemned the ‘controversial content in some books’ saying that it will not compromise on quality education especially the curriculum followed by various schools across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, the PSAJK President GN Var said “The association strongly condemns all the controversial content in some books that has surfaced in a while now.”

“PSAJK has already constituted a committee to check the content of all books being taught in private schools and so far the committee has identified five books having controversial content out of which four books have been banned till date. PSAJK hails the support given by J&K Board of School Education in this regard by acting quickly in order to stop such undesirable publishing”, as per the statement.

Strongly condemning ‘the act of creating a state of turbulence in a peaceful society by negligently recommending books with controversial matter’, Var said that the association, immediately after getting information about the issue, constituted a high level committee headed by renowned academician Khurshid Bismil in order to check all the books and identify the controversial content if any.

The committee, as per the statement, has so far identified five books with undesirable matter published and four out of these have been banned by the association and also by the BOSE.

Var besides appreciating the quick action of BOSE authorities especially its Chairperson for banning all such books recommended by the association also thanked the publishers of Jammu and Kashmir for their support in identifying such unwanted and indecent matter.

“The academic committee of PSAJK is already on job and it is hoped that in near future all the content published in books taught in schools will be scrutinized and recommendations will be submitted to BOSE and the Government for action accordingly and requests the school owners to go through the content of books before utilizing in their curriculum”, the statement concluded.

Leh Highway, Mughal Road Remains Closed

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar-Ladakh and the Mughal road connecting Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri district in Jammu remained closed for a second consecutive day on Friday, police said.

But the Srinagar-Jammu highway was open for vehicular traffic. Light motor vehicles were plying while heavy vehicles were allowed to move only from Jammu to Srinagar, a police officer said.

He said the Srinagar-Ladakh road was closed as a precaution following fresh snowfall at Sonmarg, Zojila Pass, Captain More and Drass on the highway on Thursday.

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) pressed into service men and machinery to clear the snow besides conducting necessary weekly repairs to make the road traffic worthy.

The historical Mughal road also remained closed for vehicular traffic for a second day following snowfall a day earlier. A snow clearance operation is on to open it for vehicular traffic.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPL SUB DIV. TANGDAR

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

No: 4377-85 Dtd: 22.12.2021

Short e- NIT No. 97 of 2021-22 of Special Sub Division Tangdar

For & on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders (in single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the followings works:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Laying and fitting of 100 mm dia GI pipes for intake main at head site and 65 mm dia at tail portion upto SR dumba incl charging commissioning of already laid pipes for WSS Tangdar	1.00	200/-	15 days	AR	DEE
2	Providing and laying of GI pipes in Biyadi WSS Dringla Biyadi	2.25	200/-	15 days	AR	DEE
3	Realignment /restoration of 50 mm dia GI supply main for Lontha at spots WSS Lontha	1.20	200/-	15 days	AR	DEE
4	Constt of 2 No spring protection works at shatpalla incl constt of protection pillars at nallah crossing for pipes for WSS Kandi	2.41	200/-	15 days	AR	DEE
5	Constt of 1 No spring protection work 1 No intake chamber and L/F of 20 mm dia pipes at Jada WSS Jada	2.49	200/-	15 days	AR	DEE
6	Constt of 1 No spring protection work and realignment of 65 40 mm dia GI pipes line at Kandi for sheikh mohalla baila WSS Kandi	1.55	200/-	15 days	AR	DEE

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23.12.2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23.12.2021
3	Bid submission Start Date	23.12.2021
4	Bid Submission End Date	29.12.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30.12.2021 at 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Division Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 .

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer Spl Sub Div Tangdar (tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6.1. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the “Downloads” option as well as from “Bidders Manual Kit” on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

6.2. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ‘Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)’ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

6.6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

7. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

8. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer Spl Sub Division Tangdar and Bid Security Declaration must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The original Treasury Challan (cost of tender document), CDR/FDR/BG (earnest money/bid security) and relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of contract.

9. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

10. Price escalation and Taxes:- Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

11. Bidders are advised to use “My Documents” area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

12. In case of CRF and any other specified project, the relevant guidelines / standard bidding document shall be followed.

13. The tar to be used for macadamization works shall be procured only from Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSU’s).

14. ALL KEY CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL shall have to be strictly as per prescribed specifications and approval of the Engineer In-charge.

15. The EMD shall be released only after successful completion of DLP

16. Failure on part of the contractor to fulfill his obligations of maintenance schedules shall result in forfeiture of the deposits held for this purpose as well as the CDR/FDR/BG for this work.

17. Safety:- The contractor shall be responsible for safety of all activities at site of work.

18. Discoveries:- Anything of historical or other interest or of significant value unexpectedly discovered on the site shall be the property of the Govt.

19. Tests:-The contractor shall be solely responsible for carrying out the mandatory tests required for the quality control at his own cost.

20. Termination:- The employer may terminate the contract if the contractor causes a fundamental breach of the contract.

DIPK-15636/21

Executive Engineer
Spl Sub Division Tangdar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

(Tele-fax No: 019-2496089, e-mail id: xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)

Gist of e-NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2021-22/252/e-tendering (SHORT-TERM)

Dated:- 24.12.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	AAA	Position of funds	Time of completion (Days)	TS No.	Earnest Money (Rs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Annual Maintenance Contract of one (01) No. 13 Passenger ThyssenKrupp and One (01) No.20 Passenger (G+4) OTIS make Lift at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar	1.50	200	09 AHof 2021 Dt:- 22.03.21	Available	365	167 of 12/21	3000.00

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from 24.12.2021 (16.00 hrs).

2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 24.12.2021 (16: hrs) to 04.01.2022 (14:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.

3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 04.01.2021 (17.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

DIPK-15676/21
MHCHD/TS/

Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar
Dt:-

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Twitter Talks



“While we often share old photographs of Kashmir from Western photographers, we must remain informed that these photographs imposed a frame of fantasy on Kashmir. The camera tried to harness Kashmir into an object of desire that fed a romantic Orientalist appetite”
@khawar_achakzai

“my takeaway from a tiring application process is that the day you start viewing the global education system as that snooty kid who is always so weird about gatekeeping his knowledge right before an exam is when you'd start appreciating how absolutely vital community learning is”
@uraynah

“I have faced religious discrimination and communal violence in the past. But as an Indian Muslim I have never felt as unsafe and alienated as I do today. The threat to our lives is real and it's frightening to feel the fear and anger that comes with it”
@KhanumArfa

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

Flying The Coop

With the curtain about to ring down on the government's half-yearly sojourn in the summer capital, the somewhat pretentious officialdom, politics included, of the state is all set to take its soothing ministrations to the more conducive climes of Jammu in a seemingly endless repetition of an ante-diluvian practice. Obviously, the chill descending this side of the Pir Patsal range freezes the creative and innovative currents within our masters, and they need warmer air to keep their beneficent and benevolent souls going.

Jammu and Kashmir has the distinction of being the only state with two capitals with the government migrating between them after every six months. In between, it helps itself with a neat 10-day break as if after a 'tiresome' performance in either region even as the drain on public exchequer in the shape of inconsequential touring and resultant expenses on petrol and allowances goes on without any respite. In fact, some kind of a 'seasonal' inertia sets in throughout the move offices about a month earlier as the officials begin packing up for the bi-annual trek up and down the highway. The files and records of various move offices are a mute witness to the common refrain during these days: "put up after durbar move." Thus, by any calculation, the state government remains in a comma for about a month in every six months. It hardly matters if by the same token the government gives an emphatic lie to its own claim of being "a government that works every day". In the process, the near-empty state exchequer is made to cough up a few crores of borrowed money to sustain a patently primitive tradition of 'durbar move' the erstwhile Dogra ruler, Maharaja Ranbir Singh, had initiated 133 years ago, in 1872.

Remember, in the eighties, the then happy-go-lucky chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, had taken a bold decision to dispense with the time-consuming and expensive practice only to spark off massive protests in the winter capital which forced him to lick the dust by withdrawing the order. Apparently, the main argument put forth to retain the practice is that it promotes emotional integration between the Muslim-dominated Kashmir region and Jammu having a substantial Hindu population. Partly, it also contributes a great deal in boosting trade and commerce in Jammu region. Over the decades, however, both the pleas have become almost totally irrelevant. The emotional integration between Kashmir and Jammu is just a farce as the two regions are not always on the same wave length in respect of quite some crucial issues.

The rise and groundswell of regional groups like the Jammu State Morcha has left nobody in doubt that the disturbingly saffronised regional and separatist sentiments are eating into the shrinking secular base, particularly in the two and a half districts of Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur. The growing influence of the RSS and its Hindutva outfits like the Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal is no music for Kashmiris and certainly cannot even tolerate, leave alone nourish, any emotional bonds between the two regions. It is an open secret the RSS has been organizing regular shakhas in certain areas while the Bajrang Dal distributes tri-shuls to militarize the Hindu mind against Muslims.

It is no wonder that the Congress and the National Conference, who have lost no opportunity in making a travesty of their secular credentials at the regional and the national levels for the petty profits of power, should hold on to a tenuous artifice, a fig leaf, rather, to flaunt a virtue both have sacrificed time and again for the spoils of office. So, sensing themselves lacking in moral authority in deciding an issue on hard practical sense, they try to compensate by keeping up appearances. As both are deeply compromised in dealing body blows to the foundations of the nation's philosophy, they have no other option but to keep up outdated notions to avoid having to grapple with hard facts.

Otherwise also, the half-yearly migration of the government out of the problem zones affects its performance rather adversely leaving the deserted areas' people high and dry. The sooner the practice is abandoned, the better it would be for the entire state and its people. Indeed, in an era when the entire world has been reduced to a global village, the government can evolve a mechanism through which to administer the state quite effectively and efficiently without having to move between two capitals. It goes without saying that most ministers and top functionaries even otherwise keep routinely flying between the two capitals regardless of where the seat of power happens to be.

The article is an editorial from KO Archives and was published in October 2010

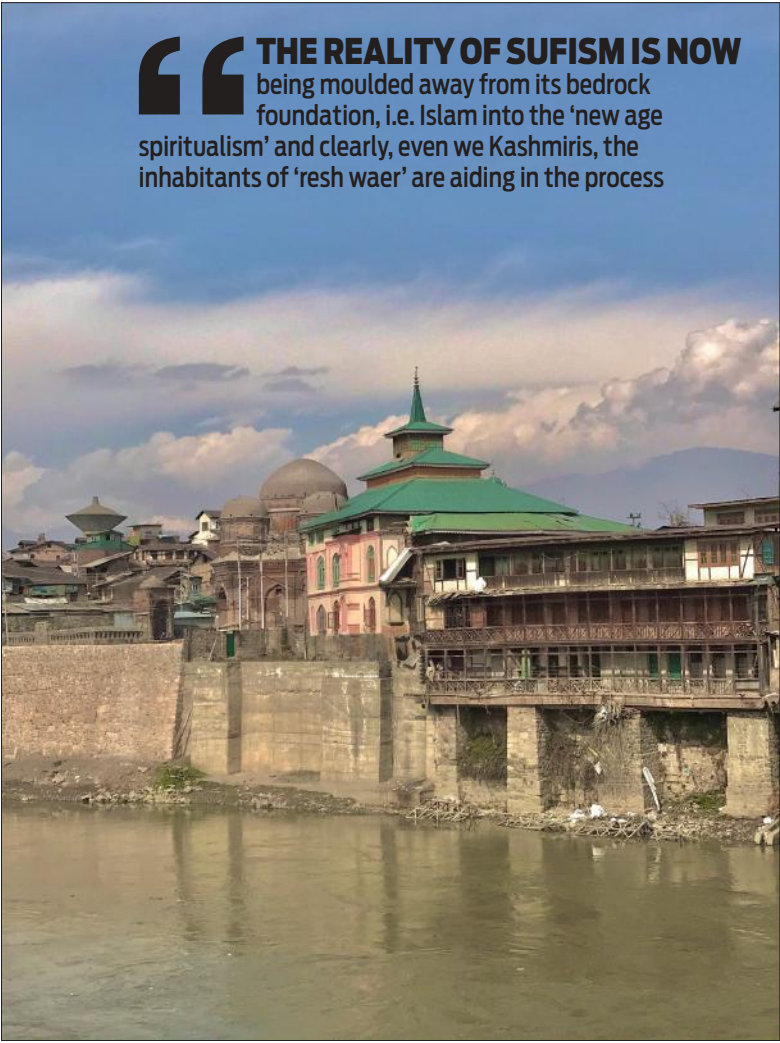
Erasure Of Mystical
Heritage In Kashmir
The Untoward Leaning Of Our Orientalised Minds

Shuayb Muhammad

I was once asked by a friend of mine if I had read the famous novel '40 Rules of Love' by Elif Shafak. I replied in the negative. He praised the work for its 'beautiful portrayal of Sufism' and insisted that I read it too. I did read it eventually, after the circulation of its praises felt overwhelming, only to feel utterly betrayed. This sense of betrayal is not something I believe was exclusive but in fact, is the same for anyone who is familiar with the subject in its authenticity. The only thing that errs us though is that we don't want to seek authenticity anymore.

Our land Kashmir is often hall-marked as 'peer'i waer' or 'resh waer' - 'the valley of saints', for the history of its close and interwoven relation with mysticism. Even before the advent of Islam, it had the influence of Trika Shaivism which shared its resemblance with Islamic mysticism in its monistic philosophy. We can trace its history from Lal Ded, the most remembered Shaivite mystic of 14th century, to Syed Mirak Shah Kashani, a revered 20th century Sufi saint. This history doesn't only entail a mere abundance of mystics, or of their literary contribution to our language but most notably, it entails their interwoven relation with the people and how that relation has shaped our ethos and culture. Mystics have been at the locus of religio-ethical sphere of our society. Their position in history is seen as that of personages of harmony, mutual-understanding and love among the people of diverse faiths. One of the reasons of Islam's flourishing in Kashmir was because of the emphasised perpetuation of its spiritual dimension -tasawwuf by the early Sufis that came to Kashmir in the 14th century, the earliest of them being Syed Sharf-ud-din Abdul Rahman Shah or, as commonly known, Bulbul Shah. He is credited as the earliest missionary of Islam to Kashmir who invited and converted the then ruling king Rinchen Shah to Islam.

This spiritual fecundity and with that the knowledge, canons of art and literature that followed is what we are home to. The literature produced by poets and mystics alike is nothing short of remarkable. Lal Ded's 'vaakh' that impart esoteric truths and advices, Noor-ud-din Noorani's 'shru'ik' which address and advise people collectively, Rasool Mir's unparalleled eloquence in romantic poetry or Wahab Khaar's profound expounding on Sufi thought; all of these are examples of a rich and bounteous canon of literature produced over the centuries, inspired by tasawwuf, the reality which connects us with the central Asian and other Muslim regions.



“THE REALITY OF SUFISM IS NOW being moulded away from its bedrock foundation, i.e. Islam into the 'new age spiritualism' and clearly, even we Kashmiris, the inhabitants of 'resh waer' are aiding in the process

“WE HAVE REDUCED OUR PLACES OF spiritual meaning and healing, khanqas, dargas, to mere props in the frames of our social media posts. The devotion, longing and emotions of devotees mean to us only as much as it would to create a 'beautiful', 'woke' and 'meaningful' frame on the internet

Instead of being conscious of such realities, we give in to the orientalist tropes that are perpetuated by popular authors time and time again. We have forfeited our literature, and the wisdom that it would entail now only remains in the memories of the past. The thirst of spiritual readings now is being quenched by readings of orientalist works. The fact that a novel like '12 Rules of Love' is highly encouraged and entertained among our young generation speaks of our orientalised mentality. We are so distant and detached from our own history, culture and identity that we can't discern what Shafak has produced in the novel, which is nothing short of a watered-down version of Islam and Sufism to match the appetite of western readership. Two of the most respected figures in the history of Sufism, Mawlana Rumi and Shams Tabriz are reduced down to mere agents of 'love' in a 'feel good' manner

while they're de-contextualised from their religious foundations. Any taste for Islam is strongly negated and we, as deficient as we are, play along the whole narrative like mindless minions. The cover of the book every now and then circulates in a Dal lake reel or a Naseem Bagh photo-shoot in an attempt to please the aesthetic vocations of a severely attention deficient society. While Shafak does claim no expertise on the subject of Sufism, we still subliminally sketch a skewed image of the subject in the process of reading her. Therefore, the main problem lies not with the author but with the readership, especially the readership which shares some identity with the subject.

Shafak is only one of such authors that are among the perpetrators of the 'New Age spiritualism' -the secular attempt of replacing the spiritual aspect of religion without having to deal with the religion itself. Although

this wave has seen momentum in the West, it's unfortunate that its fringes are caving in the eastern world as well. Coleman Barks, an American Poet revered for his 'translations' of Rumi's Masnavi has helped in making Rumi the 'best-selling poet of America'. [1] Although the contribution is commendable, he is often severely criticized for the misrepresentation of Rumi's ideas. Regarding these new age 'translations' Omid Safi, a professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University states that he views it as a type of 'spiritual colonialism', an ongoing process of erasing, and occupying a spiritual landscape lived by Muslims from Bosnia to South Asia. [2] Not so surprisingly, Barks who wrote for the American readership, has found his works being read and championed in the Muslim world too. This includes Kashmir as well. Just like '12 Rules of Love', Barks' translations have found a good wave of readership among the young generation here. The idea of 'Hoor', which originally had much deeper and diverse meanings in religious context will now exclusively mean 'a perfect satisfaction of all our sexual wanting'. [3] The reality of Sufism is now being moulded away from its bedrock foundation, i.e. Islam into the 'new age spiritualism' and clearly, even we Kashmiris, the inhabitants of 'resh waer' are aiding in the process.

The spiritual and the religious has lost meaning for us. What now remains of them is their aesthetic symbolism. We have reduced our places of spiritual meaning and healing, khanqas, dargas, to mere props in the frames of our social media posts. The devotion, longing and emotions of devotees mean to us only as much as it would to create a 'beautiful', 'woke' and 'meaningful' frame on the internet. Their essential significance now remains in the memories of our ancestors and we are deliberately replacing the essential with the aesthetic, denying ourselves the spiritual legacy we rightfully inherit. If anything, we like our spiritual ethos only for its 'love and kindness' while we ignore its emphasis on self-purity, submission and devotion to religion - just like the New Age spiritualists.

The reasons for this untoward leaning of ours can be much explored and debated. However few things remain clear: that we are the active agents in the erasure of our Mystical Heritage and that we have adopted for ourselves, either knowingly or unknowingly, the outsider's gaze upon our much nurtured reality.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer

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Miss Universe In The Times Of Pandemic: Is There
Beauty Beyond The Pageants?

Jyotsna Mohan

2021 has one foot out of the door but women parading in swim wear are still being judged on their impeccable physical attributes.

Cloned like her fellow participants in a similar attire and an identical smile pasted so tightly as though world peace depended on it, 21-year-old Hamaaz Sandhu's Miss Universe crown came after she had answered some challenging questions including one where she gave cat calls in response to being asked to impersonate an animal.

Seeing her stroll on a stage rolling a giant umbrella in her hand was a big slice of dystopia. The last two years have encouraged the need to cut the clutter - superficial, toxic and sometimes even personal. Necessity or invaluable distraction are the two reset buttons on our remotes of life. Where then do beauty pageants fit in, when they have already long outlived their sell by date?

Interesting timing

The timing of this title is interesting. The win for India after 21 years at the Miss Universe pageant comes after a stunning IPO by e-commerce company Nykaa that sells beauty and fashion products.

The success of the IPO was a revelation that the Indian woman consumer had been quietly lapping up beauty, online. Was it time to focus the attention back on a market that was once spearheaded by a flurry of crowns that suddenly dried up as though the job was done? Is the Indian beauty

“WHILE COVID HAS COST JOBS, IT HAS ALSO been a boom time for the new age professional- influencers have been busy selling everything from perfection to products that promise the fairy tale.

queen at the mercy of economics?

The existential question surrounding beauty pageants on a world stage like the Miss Universe or Miss World though is deeper. Forget for a moment the harsh standards of beauty- these pageants extract- stipulations that a contestant must be below the age of 27, single and unmarried are extremely jarring- and try and align a global movement focusing on body positivity with a contest that still objectifies women. At the Indian intersection, it also allows for casual sexism.

The last two years should have allowed for some re-think. It has been a time when unfettered access to social media has been at the hands of idle minds, when time stuck indoors has been spent doom scrolling and simultaneously perfecting an image online by imitating those who never show their real face.

While Covid has cost jobs, it has also been a boom time for the new age professional- influencers have been busy selling everything from perfection to products that promise the fairy tale. 'Mirror mirror on the wall', is no longer a question.

Inspiring the social media audience

Beauty pageants inspire the predominantly young Instagram audience to take the short cut home when the last thing needed in these unsettling times is a resurgence of

toxic beauty. Families have been shattered, incomes have disappeared, and footholds need to be found again.

Judging on the basis, of physical beauty instead of setting examples of admiring the inherent strength or inner beauty when it could not be a life less ordinary all around is tone deaf.

Contests like these increase expectations they are also a push back for inclusiveness especially in a country that is still struggling at the base with body neutrality. Far from being embraced, plus sizes in our country are still looked at with embarrassment.

Bollywood is largely responsible for promoting body stereotypes where the comic element is always the overweight character and where the dusky girl never finds a groom until she uses 'Fair and Lovely' cream. As a social media user pointed out, activism over global matters doesn't quite sync with a Karan Johar movie which is where a number, of our beauty queens ultimately end up.

Despite promises of change on the world stage, from Aishwarya Rai, Lara Dutta to Priyanka Chopra, beauty queens don't offer a murmur as they get pigeonholed in Bollywood.

Impossible physical standards

For decades the failure to match the perceived notions of conventional beauty has been internalised as humour and the impos-

sible physical standards are promoted even by families and relatives whether subtly or openly. Ever wondered why young girls are just drinking warm water at parties?

Contrary to an overwhelming belief, body shaming cannot be dismissed as something that is 'just a phase' or 'a figment of someone's imagination'. Teenagers today are paying the price for this problematic conviction that is insidious and compounded now by the desperation of social media validation. They believe, they get just one shot, refusing to believe that for every Harnaaz there are countless others who didn't make the cut.

More than a handful of schoolgirls have told me how feeling physically inadequate they resorted to self-harm. Harnaaz's win is welcome for aspirational small- town India, but in school and college corridors, the claws of anorexia, bulimia and depression are not unfamiliar. Alicia Machado who won the title in 1996 opened, up last year about her battle with anorexia during the year she was Miss Universe as a 19-year-old.

The winners may make themselves believe that the times are unchanged and a beauty pageant is a platform for activism, but their own lack of choice on that stage is a giveaway.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Gulf News

The author is a writer and journalist

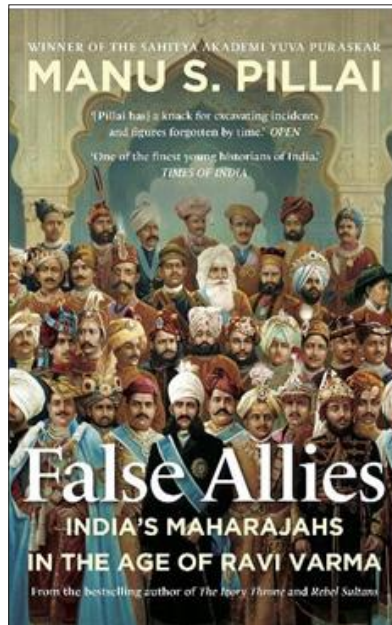
My 2021 Book Rack In Review

Om Chadha

The year 2021 was erratically paced and so were our reading and retention. Still, I managed to sneak in some readings which have been valuable additions to my book collection.

Here is a list of the best ones from 2021, from me to you.

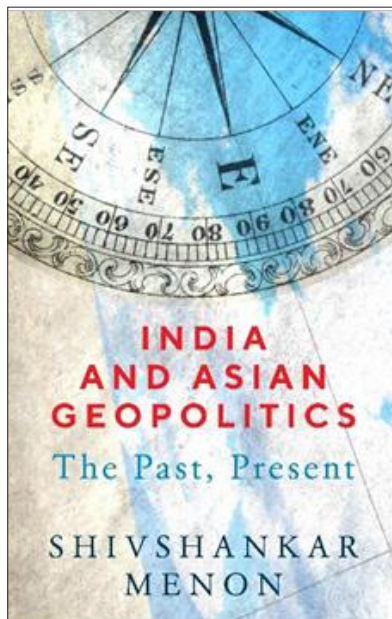
FALSE ALLIES: India's Maharajahs in the Age of Ravi Varma



By Manu S. Pillai; publisher: Juggernaut; price: cover price INR 899

Challenging the long sedimented image of Indian maharajas as lavish puppets of Raj, given to luxury and indulgence, the book points to more nuanced and intriguing drama of colonial royalty. It follows the 'painter prince' Ravi Varma as he brushes the portraits of Indian Maharajas and reveals to the reader underlying politics, negotiations and manipulations beyond the immediate modality of his subjects. The book addresses the questions like: Were the Indian Maharajas really nothing more than their baser instincts? Were they just puppets in the hands of the British? Were they so lost in their own self-grandizing image that they felt the state and its people were just another 'silly distraction'?

India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, The present



By Shivshankar Menon; Publisher: Penguin Allen Lane; Price INR 699

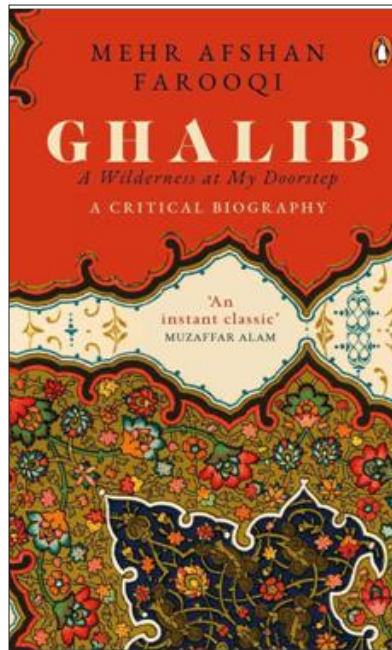
The book offers a substantive chronology of the transformation Indian Foreign policy has been through the decades since independence. Author S. Menon, former NSA, charts the course of India's foreign policy with an eye on history and domestic politics; while this analysis remains cast in the logic of hard power providing the reader with a much more nuanced view over current phenomena in the international arena and their historical backdrop. He also revisits the history of 1962 Indo-China war and reveals a new dimension of India's position vis-à-vis China and bipolar cold war reality to refute the popular imagination putting much of the blame on Nehru.

Ghalib: A Wilderness at my Doorstep

By Mehr Afshan Farooqi, publisher: Allen Lane; Price INR 799.

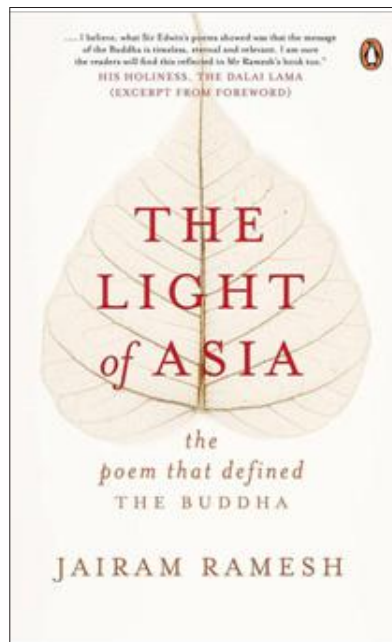
A genuine work on Ghalib scholarship, the book reveals to us the poet Ghalib, in a new light, who was in most part concerned with the presentation of his

“THE BOOK KNITS TOGETHER A PLETHORA OF REPORTS, PERSONAL interviews, biographical references and scholarship to illustrate the contemporary situation of the largest minority of the nation. The book rather reveals to the reader a situation where Muslims in India are not only subjected to prejudice by civil society but a much subtler, and at times more direct, repression at the hands of law making and law enforcement authorities.



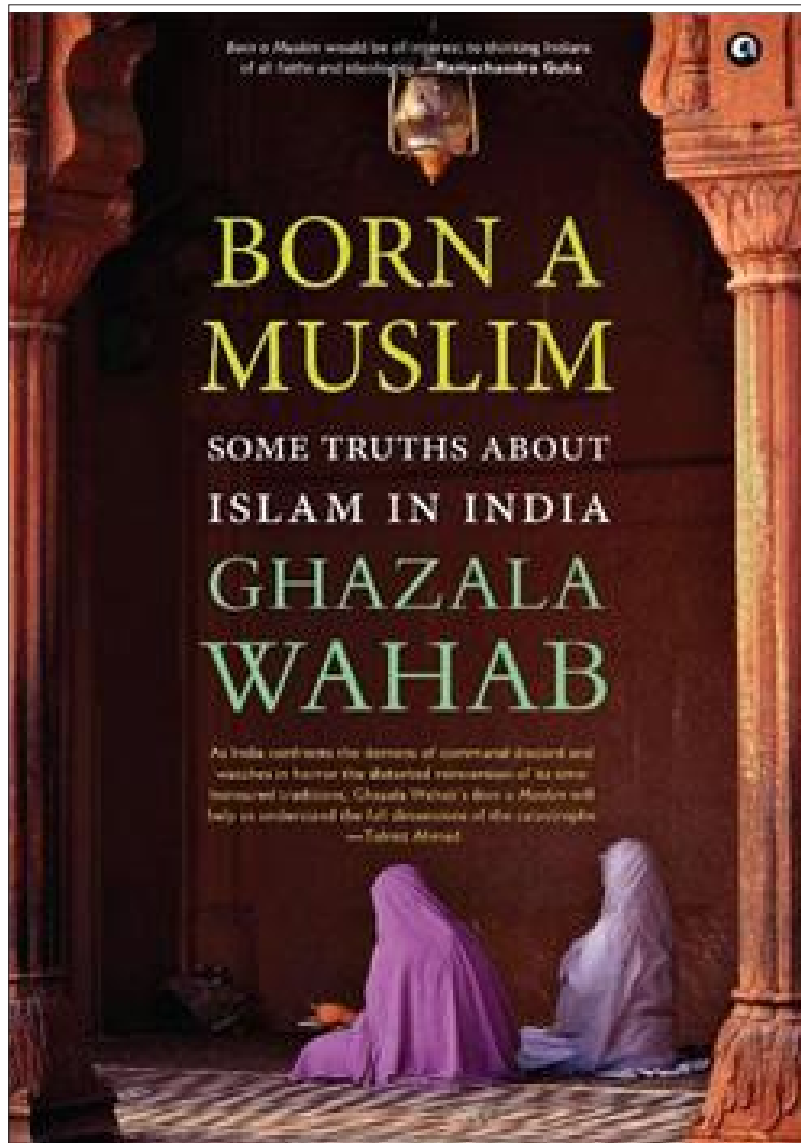
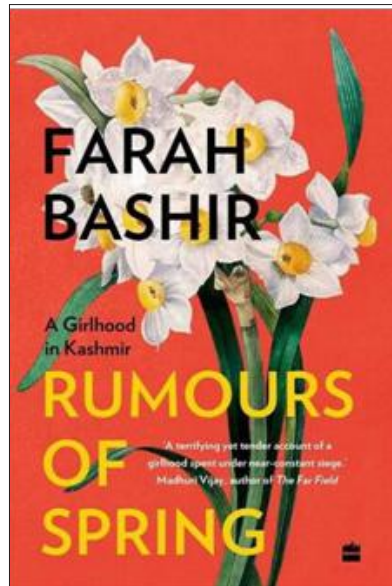
art. Book, in detail, deals with the sojourn years of Ghalib to Calcutta and explores how it affected Ghalib's spiritual and linguistic judgement. It details how Ghalib gets introduced to the print medium and what makes him choose and leave Persian as a chosen language of his poems and latter choice of Urdu poetry. Ghalib who lived in times of great flux: linguistic and political is revealed as such; negotiating and redrawing himself within Urdu, Arabic and Persian in the last years of Mughal rule.

The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined The Buddha



By Jairam Ramesh, publisher: Penguin Viking; price: INR 799

Buddha certainly didn't become Buddha by following one, but if he is the defining and a uniting pan Asian figure, 'The light of Asia' is certainly a defining text on Buddha. Jairam Ramesh offers in this book a biography of one of the most influential texts orientalism produced. Its influence is palpable on nationalist leaders like Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar but also on a much larger literary world with poets like Tagore, Eliot, Tolstoy and Joyce getting inspired by and getting familiarized with the text. The book also familiarizes the reader with more political dimensions of the text by stressing questions like: Who can claim Buddha and why? Why did buddha sleeke nirvana in the first place? What



“SHE BRINGS TO FOREFRONT THE HUMAN cost of a conflict so usually seen through the lens of politics and power. We find in her chronicles a voice of life lived under sounds of gunfire, curfews, convoys and perpetual “vigilance”. In her subjectivity we also get a glimpse of a Kashmiri's relationship with mass media, as it illustrates the narrative. The difference of national newspapers with- puzzles, colourful ads and horoscope readings, while the Kashmiri dailies -shrouded with horrific headlines and punctuated with equally horrible photos of killed and disfigured faces.

makes Buddha humanistic?

Rumours of Spring: A Girlhood in Kashmir

By Farah Bashir, publisher: HarperCollins; Price INR 499.

“INDIA'S BORDERS stretch from Myanmar in the east to Pakistan in west, this long stretch of border creates a venue for dispute, fracture, state violence and corruption.

The chapters in the book follow the day of bobeh's funeral (protagonist's grandmother), while doing so it touches on the life of an adolescent girl living in conflict ridden Kashmir of 1990's. She brings to forefront the human cost of a conflict so usually seen through the lens of politics and power. We find in her chronicles a voice of life lived under sounds of gunfire, curfews, convoys and perpetual “vigilance”. In her subjectivity we also get a glimpse of a Kashmiri's relationship with mass media, as it illustrates the narrative. The difference of national newspapers with- puzzles, colourful ads and horoscope readings, while the Kashmiri dailies -shrouded with horrific headlines and punctuated with equally horrible photos of killed and disfigured faces.

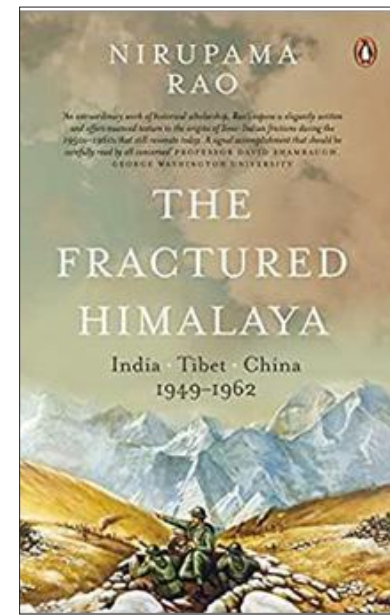
Born a Muslim: Some Truths About Islam

By: Ghazala Wahab Publisher: Aleph Price: Rs 999

by Suchitra Vijayan; Publisher: Context, Price: INR 499

India's borders stretch from Myanmar in the east to Pakistan in west, this long stretch of border creates a venue for dispute, fracture, state violence and corruption. The division of geography in the subcontinent has a history and this history, so the book argues, of colonial separation and oppression continues to shape the lives of people living on borders with value of human life being suspended by the logic of citizen and state. Illustrated by 40 photographs and authors eye for novel narrative the book recaptures the value of humanity of the people living on the “Midnight borders” of the subcontinent.

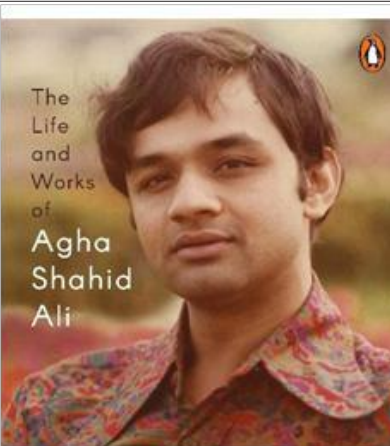
The Fractured Himalaya: India, China, Tibet 1949-1962



By Nirupama Rao, Publication: Penguin/ Viking; price: INR 999.

The book is certainly a major work of scholarship where the author being a former Ambassador to China, and as former Foreign Secretary brings to her reader a detailed and nuanced chorology of events that lead to the war with China in 1962. It reads like a tragedy with its own tragic characters, unfolding at unprecedented times in history: when for the first time India and China shared a border after thousands of years of co-existence. It in its sharp eye for detail and smoothly constructed narrative the book casts a light on the formation and execution of India's foreign policy and choices.

A Map of Longings: Life and Works of Agha Shahid Ali



A Map of Longings
MANAN KAPOOR

By Manan Kapoor, Publisher: Penguin Random House India, price: INR 350

A biography of one of the most iconic poets from Kashmir. One who not only accepted his identity of being a Kashmiri but rather embraced it with much more personal of his dimensions- a gay, and American with both ease and apprehension. The book portrays the poet as not just one with artistic sensibility and beautiful vision for life but also as one with deep-rooted humanity. The humanism of Shahid Ali seems to precede his great achievements in life. The most interesting part of the book covers the influence of popular culture with a deep sense of heritage and culture made on the poet.

The author is an intern at Kashmir Observer

Academic Education Can Positively Affect Aging Of Brain: Study

Agencies

The benefits of good education and lifelong learning extend into old age. The initial findings of a long-term study show that certain degenerative processes are reduced in the brains of academics. Their brains are better able to compensate for age-related cognitive and neural limitations.

A good education is an excellent way to embark on a successful career and develop your personality. But can education also have a positive effect on our brains as we get older? A team of researchers under the University Research Priority Program "Dynamics of Healthy Aging" led by Lutz Jancke, professor of neuropsychology at the University of Zurich, has now explored this question in a long-term study.

The researchers followed

more than 200 senior citizens for over seven years. The study participants are not affected by dementia, have average to above-average intelligence, and lead highly active social lives. They were examined neuroanatomically as well as neuropsychologically using magnetic resonance imaging at regular intervals. Based on complex statistical analyses, the researchers were able to show that academic education had a positive effect on age-related brain degeneration.

In her PhD thesis, first author Isabel Hotz used novel automatic methods among others to study so-called lacunes and white matter hyperintensities. These degenerative processes showed up as "black holes" and "white spots" on the digital images. The reasons for this are not yet known and may have to do with small, unnoticed ce-

rebral infarcts, reduced blood flow or loss of nerve pathways or neurons. This can limit a person's cognitive performance, in particular when degeneration affects key regions of the brain.

The findings revealed that over the course of seven years, senior citizens with an academic background showed a significantly lower increase in these typical signs of brain degeneration. "In addition, academics also processed information faster and more accurately - for example, when matching letters, numbers of patterns. The decline in their mental processing performance was lower overall," summarizes Hotz.

The findings add to the initial findings of other research groups, who have found that education has a positive effect on brain aging. Previous studies also suggest that mental processing speed de-

pends on the integrity of neural networks in the brain. If these networks are affected, mental processing speed decreases.

Even though no causal link between education and reduced natural brain degeneration has so far been found, the following at least seems likely: "We suspect that a high level of education leads to an increase in neural and cognitive networks over the course of people's lives and that they build up reserves, so to speak. In old age, their brains are then better able to compensate for any impairments that occur," says neuropsychologist Lutz Jancke. It is also possible that brains that are active well into old age are less susceptible to degeneration processes, adds the neuropsychologist, though this would have to be verified in the further course of the ongoing long-term study.

As Omicron Rises, How To Be Safe On A Flight

Irina Anghel, Bloomberg

Aircraft passengers are twice or even three times more likely to catch Covid-19 during a flight since the emergence of the omicron variant, according to the top medical adviser to the world's airlines.

The new strain is highly transmissible and has become dominant in a matter of weeks, accounting for more than 70% of all new cases in the U.S. alone. While hospital-grade air filters on modern passenger jets make the risk of infection much lower on planes than in crowded places on the ground such as shopping malls, omicron is rapidly spreading just as more travelers take to the skies for year-end holidays and family reunions.

Business class may be safer than more densely packed economy cabins, said David Powell, physician and medical adviser to the International Air Transport Association, which represents almost 300 carriers worldwide. As before, passengers should avoid face-to-face contact and surfaces that are frequently touched, and people sitting near to each other should try not to be unmasked at the same time during meals, he said.

Powell, former chief medical officer at Air New Zealand Ltd., spoke with Bloomberg News on Tuesday about flying during the pandemic. Here's an edited transcript.

What are the risks of infection during a flight?

Whatever the risk was with delta, we would have to assume the risk would be two to three times greater with omicron, just as we've seen in other environments. Whatever that low risk - we don't know what it is -- on the airplane, it must be increased by a similar amount.

What should passengers do to minimize the risks?

Avoid common-touch surfaces, hand hygiene wherever possible, masks, distancing, controlled-boarding procedures, try to avoid face-to-face contact with other customers, try to avoid being unmasked in flight, for meal and drink services, apart from when really necessary. The advice is the same, it's just that the relative risk has probably increased, just as the relative risk of going to the supermarket or catching a bus has increased with omicron.

What about masks at meal times?

For a two-hour flight, it's pretty easy to say, 'just keep your mask on the whole time.' But if it's a 10-hour flight, it becomes pretty unreasonable to ask people not to eat and drink. What most airlines have been doing is encouraging, but not insisting, on customers trying to stagger their mask-off periods a little bit.

In simple terms, two people masked have minimal transmission from one to the other. If one of you removes your mask, then that person's at greater risk of transmitting and at slightly greater risk of receiving. But if both of you remove then obviously, there's no barrier there and you can freely transmit one to the other.

Would it be safest not to fly at all?

The greatest protection you can give yourself is to be vaccinated and boosted. The protection that you give yourself from an extra mask or a different type of mask, or not flying at all, frankly, is probably less than the benefit you would get from just being fully boosted. There's a sort of a rule of thumb starting to appear, that essentially omicron loses you one vaccine dose of benefit. So, two doses against omicron is about similar protection to one dose against delta. That's not established in hard science, but it roughly seems to correlate with what's coming out in studies.

Is it safe for healthy passengers if an omicron case is sitting on the plane?

It's an enclosed space, but it's a leaky box, and we pressurize it by putting a huge airflow on one end of it, and then having an exhaust valve out the other end. So you're sitting in a very high-flow airflow environment. It is an enclosed space, but that doesn't shout 'risk' to me. An Irish pub with a fan in the corner shouts 'risk' to me, or a gymnasium with a whole lot of people shouting and grunting and sweating. But any flight you take does involve airports as well, which are a little bit less controlled. So, there is risk there. What can you do? Vaccination, testing, mask-wearing, distancing. Are surgical masks better than cloth masks? Yes, probably. On average, maybe 10-20%.

Most of the documented cases of spread in flight are from way back in March 2020 -- before we had testing, before we had masks, before we had organized boarding procedures, before there was a high degree of awareness about not flying if you were unwell.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER
PWD(R&B) DIVISION KULGAM

NIT No. 154/2021-22/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/ 9855-75 dated 20-12-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of Berm for Noonmai Zaban road KM 2nd by way of Supplying and filling Khah Bajree with 70% metal.	3.89	200	10 days	State Sector	Dee
2	Construction of bathroom at Masjid Sharief Adpora in Ward No. 1 of M.C. Kulgam	2.76	200	20 days	IDMT	Dee
3	Construction of Drain near H/O Mohd. Altaf Padder (phase 2) ward No. 6 of M.C. Kulgam	1.46	200	07 days	IDMT	Dee
4	Construction of Slaughter House near Bus Adda M.C Frisal (Brick Walling)	26.87	800	30 days	F.C Grants	Aay & Bee
5	Development of Browsing Centre at Govt Degree College Kulgam	10.50	600	30 days	Higher Education	Bee, Dee & Dee
6	Construction of Drain from H/o Gh. Rasool Wani upto Hospital Wall Ward No. 2 of MC Kulgam	2.15	200	10 days	IDMT	Dee
7	Establishment of Solid Waste Management (Material Recovery Facility) at M.C Frisal (Brick Walling)	38.34	1100	40 days	Solid waste Management	Aay & Bee
8	Construction of Foot Bridge Near H/O Manzoor Ah. Peer Ward no 06 MC- Kulgam	0.79	200	05 days	IDMT	Dee
9	Restoration, repairs and construction of retaining wall at starting point of Degree College Kulgam link road	0.41	200	05 days	Higher Education	Dee
10	Stepped lane and Rwall near H/O Newson Ah. Shah upto H/O Mohd. Amin Shah At Malpora ward No. 3 of M.C. Kulgam	2.34	200	10 days	IDMT	Dee
11	Construction of tiled lane from H/O Hilar Ah. Wani to Al-Saboor Paramedical Institute ward No. 4 of M.C. Kulgam	1.70	200	10 days	IDMT	Dee
12	Construction of Lane from H/O Mashooq Ahmad Sofi onwards at Ward No. 5, MC Kulgam	2.10	200	07 days	IDMT	Dee
13	Renovation of ziyarath Sharief at Turigam Devebhug Kulgam	6.70	300	10 days	State Sector	Cee & Dee

Position of AAA= Accorded

1. The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-12-2021
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 20-12-2021 (01.00 PM) To 27-12-2021 (04.00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 20-12-2021 (01.00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 27-12-2021 (04.00 PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	27-12-2021 (04.00 PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (Major Head 0059-Rev:Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority](Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).

3. All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form is as per Annexure "A" below).

4. The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Kulgam

DIPK-15518/21

THE J&K BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS (BOPEE)

Tele/Fax: 0194-2433590, 2437647 (Srinagar); 0191-2479371, 2470102 (Jammu)
Website: www.jkbopee.gov.in E-mail: coejakbopee@gmail.com/helpdeskjakbopee@gmail.com

Subject:- Conduct of 2nd physical up-gradation / allotment (Mop-up) round of counselling for admission to M. Sc Technology (SKIMS) Courses 2021.
References: Notification No. 140-BOPEE of 2021 dated 08-12-2021.

Notification No. 152-BOPEE of 2021
Dated :-23-12-2021

Consequent upon receipt of short fall from SKIMS, the Board has decided to conduct 2nd physical up-gradation / allotment (Mop-up) round of counselling for admission to M. Sc Technology (SKIMS) Courses 2021 on 27th December 2021.
Now, it is hereby notified for information of all the eligible concerned candidates of the course that the Board shall conduct the said Physical Round of Counselling for candidates who are willing / desirous to participate in this round of counselling which shall be held as per the following schedule:-

Date	Name of the Course	Counseling Schedule	Remarks
27-12-2021 (Monday)	M.Sc Technology	Rank 01 To Rank 166	First all Reserved Category Candidates will be counseled and then open merit candidates after conversion of Reserved Category seat(s), if any, available.

Notes:
1. Candidates belong to M. Sc Technology Course 2021-shall have to report at BOPEE offices Jammu/ Srinagar physically for registration/attendance & fulfillment of other formalities between 09:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. ranks wise on 27-12-2021 for their counselling.
2. Candidates participating in the counselling first time are advised to bring along their Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority & other relevant Certificates/documents as applicable to be presented at the time of Counselling.
3. The candidates who have been allotted a college / institution during first round of counselling and have joined against their allotted seat(s) and are interested to upgrade shall have to bring the fee deposition receipt for verification purpose.
4. The candidates who have missed 1st round of counselling due to one or the other reason or the candidates who have opted CNA / SNA are also eligible to participate in this round of counselling.
5. The Board reserves the right to notify any changes as may become necessary in view of any technical difficulty or the reasons beyond its control.
6. All the candidates who will report for physical counselling at BOPEE offices Jammu/ Srinagar are advised to adhere strictly to the SOP's / guidelines issued by the Government of J&K from time to time regarding COVID-19.
7. The seat matrix shall be uploaded separately in due course of time before counselling.
8. For latest updates related to the counselling and availability of seats, the candidates are advised to remain in touch with the website of the BOPEE (www.jkbopee.gov.in).
9. Any candidate who may not be able to attend the counselling personally owing to a valid reason can authorize a person (through Authority Letter on prescribed format) from his/her family member to participate in the counselling on his/her behalf at BOPEE offices Jammu/Srinagar on the day/date / time of counselling as per his/her Rank.
10. The candidates who may be provisionally selected for these courses are advised to contact concerned College/Institute for admission and other requisite formalities.
11. The candidates who have been allotted the seat during 1st round of counselling but failed to join the Institute within due date fixed by the Board shall not be eligible for this (2nd) round of counselling.
12. The willing / eligible candidates participating in this round of counselling are advised to see the seat matrix before coming to BOPEE Office Jammu / Srinagar for counselling on 27-12-2021.
The other terms and conditions shall remain the same as notified in the Information Brochure, Notifications and Notices issued by the Board in this regard from time to time.

E&OE
DIPK-NB-6129/21
NO. BOPEE/EXAM-21/2021

(DR. SUNIL GUPTA)
CONTROLLER OF EXAMINATIONS
J&K BOPEE

DATED: 23-12-2021

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT, (IRRIGATION & F C),
DIVISION SRINAGAR.

Fax/Phone: 0194-2470119 email: exenifcdsrinagar@ifckashmir.com

SHORT TERM BID NOTICE
e- BID NOTICE No: - IFCDS/ 01 of 2021-22 Dated: 21/12/2021

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited from the persons registered with such type of jobs for the following Auctions to be opened by the Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and Flood Control Department Srinagar.

S. No.	PARTICULARS	QTY (APPROX)	MINIMUM RESERVE BIDAMOUNT	EARNEST MONEY	Cost of Tender Document.	TIME OF COMPLETION
1	Re-sectioning by way of Removal of shoal formation from Dachigam Nallah at Identi-Curns fied spots downstream of police station and Chandpora Bridge Harwan.	12804.75	3354845/=	67096/=	Rs. 5000/-	45 days

1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	21-12-2021 07:00 P.M.
02	Download Date	Start 21-12-2021 07:00 P.M.
03	Bid submission Date	Start 21-12-2021 07:00 P.M.
04	Bid submission Date	End 01-01-2022 04:00 P.M.
05	Bid opening Date	03-01-2022 11:00 A.M.

2. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

3. The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 03.01.2022 at (11.00 A.M) in the Office of the Chief Engineer Kashmir Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Department Srinagar in presence of the Technical Committee as well as bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.

4. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non- transferable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein ENIT No. Serial No of Auction and Minimum Bid Amount of the Auction) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and Earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal. The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid.

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-
A. Any bidder withdraws his bid during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions of the bid.
B. Failure of highest bidder to execute the agreement within 10 days after fixation of contract.

6. Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process:-
i) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
ii) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act 2000. Bidders can get digital Certificate from any approved vendor. iii) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form. iv) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-3.
v) Bidders must ensure to upload online scanned copies of all the necessary documents with bid. Besides original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by registered post/ through courier before the date of opening of Bid.

IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. The highest bidders shall have to pay royalty charges to Geology and Mining Department as per admissible norms in addition to the consideration cost to the department.

2. The quantity of bed material as shown above, though tentative, is the maximum that can be allowed to be lifted within the highest quoted amount.

3. The successful bidder shall have to deposit full bid amount in one installment immediately after issuance of L.O.I /Allotment order within a period of Seven days positively and no extraction shall be allowed without deposition of bid amount.

4. The successful bidder shall take measure to maintain pollution free environment to the possible extent, in and around the area.

5. The successful bidder shall have to make adequate arrangement for removal of shoal to the extent of advertisement before rise in water level.

6. Any damage that might occurred to river bankment during the process of extraction shall have to be restored by the agency on his own expenses.

7. The department shall have no obligation to provide successful bidder any facility like tools, plants and machinery etc for the execution of work.

8. The successful bidder have to lift the dredged out material under the condition that no damage should be caused to the existing bankments or any other Government or private property.

9. Successful bidder shall be personally responsible for watch and ward of excavated bed material till its disposal completely.

10. The extraction of material shall have to be strictly in confirmation to the bed profile as directed by Engineer In-charge.

11. The instructions/ directives of Engineer In-charge shall have to be obeyed during the execution.

12. The Successful bidder shall have to make own arrangement for construction of road, ramp and accessibility and make good the same after completion of the job.

13. The successful bidder have to complete the dredging /removal of bed material within two months from date of the L.O.I/ allotment letter.

14. The successful bidder shall draw necessary agreement with the department for the work allotted within a week's time positively.

15. Any violation of these conditions or tampering with Nallah profile shall be at the risk and responsibility of the highest bidder and shall entail cancellation of contract and imposition of penalty upto 10% of the bid amount or cost of restoration of damages caused whichever is higher.

16. The bidders are advised to inspect the site before casting their bids.

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD Form 25 Double shall also remain in force.

Sd/-
No. I&FCD/Sgr/CS/C-14/7924-34
Dated:- 21/12/2021.

(Er. Aajaz Ahmad Keen)
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & F C Division Srinagar.

DIPK-15468/21

Navin Takes Stock Of Timely Availability Of Spray Oils In The Market



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Navin Kumar Choudhary Friday took stock of the timely and qualitative availability of petroleum derived Horticulture Mineral Oils (HMOs) in the market.

Navin talked to the officers of the department and representatives of all the oil companies for ensuring sticking to the quality standards of these products.

The meeting was attended by Directors of Horticulture Kashmir/Jammu, Directors of Agriculture Kashmir/Jammu, Director Research SKUAST, MD JKHPMC, representatives of oil companies and other officers and officials of the department.

Kashmir based officers participated in the meeting through video conferencing.

The Principal Secretary exhorted upon the officers to ensure all the legal formalities are complied by the manufacturers of these petroleum based products. He urged them to make quality products only to reach the market for the best produce of the

cash crops grown in the UT.

He asked them to check whether each of the oil companies had acquired the necessary registrations from the Central Insecticide Board. Besides he instructed them to check whether the residual analysis report and bio-efficacy report has been secured by each of them from the local Agricultural University for supplying these spray oils to the growers.

He asked the officers to work out the overall requirement of these chemicals in the UT and make pre-emptive efforts for making these available at appropriate rates in the market. He implored upon the enforcement wing of the department to be active during all the time for checking any sub-standard items entering the market.

Navin also took stock of the budget expenditure registered by heads of the departments under his control. He impressed upon them to make it sure that at least 70% of expenditure is made till the end of this month. He asked them to utilize the time available till then efficiently so that they don't have to cut a sorry figure.

Covid-19 Takes Sheen Off Entrepreneurial Activities In India: Survey

Press Trust Of India

AHMEDABAD: The COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the entrepreneurial activities in the country with the total early-stage entrepreneurial activity declining to 5.34 per cent in 2020-21, as compared to 15 per cent in the previous year.

According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) India Survey conducted by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), the entrepreneurial intentions among individuals have declined due to the setback of the pandemic.

The survey was conducted in over 45 countries of the world, of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial perceptions. EDII, Gandhinagar conducted this GEM India survey with a sample size of 3,317 adults and national level experts.

"The survey has found out that the major indicator of entrepreneurial activity - the TEA - has declined significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the total population in the work age group in 2019-20, TEA was 15 per cent which has declined to 5.34 per cent," EDII Director General and team leader of GEM India Sunil Shukla told PTI.

The survey further noted that the TEA decline is more severe in case of the female youth. Female entrepreneurial activities decreased by 79 per cent, while



the male entrepreneurial activities fell by 53 per cent.

Overall entrepreneurial intentions in public had been 33.3 per cent in 2019 20, which fell to 20.31 per cent in 2020 21, the survey said.

Shukla noted that in the Indian context and given its socio-economic challenges as well as its size and scope, entrepreneurship development can bring transformational changes to the socio-economic landscape of the country.

"In this trying times, those who have gone online have survived and thrived. Indian unicorns like Paytm, BYJU's, Swiggy and Zomato have thrived because they were using online," he said.

In a bid to improve the en-

trepreneurial ecosystem in the country, measures should be taken to include entrepreneurship education at school and college levels, there should be greater support from the government.

Further, research and policy advocacy in the field of entrepreneurship and pool of business mentors would also be beneficial for the entrepreneurial landscape of the country.

"Though in the last five-six years the government has focused on entrepreneurship development and creating a start-up ecosystem, more needs to be done to promote the ecosystem so that more and more people take entrepreneurship for self-employment and can give jobs to others," Shukla said.

Advisor Khan Calls For Quick Disposal Of Labour Welfare Cases

Extends workers' registration validity



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan convened the 18th meeting of Jammu & Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (J&K BOCWWB) at the Civil Secretariat here on Friday. The Advisor who is also the Chairman of the Board, discussed issues and proposals for welfare of construction workers engaged throughout the Union Territory.

The Chairman underlined that the pace of financial assistance schemes need to be expedited and cases be disposed swiftly in time bound manner. He also called for shifting application process to online mode for better accountability and quick de-

livery of services.

Farooq Khan called for disposal of all kinds of welfare applications within a period of three months, particularly for the offline applications. Assistant Labour Commissioners are to be made accountable for the work, he said.

The Chairman decided that worker registration, once done, would now be valid for a period of three years instead of one, to save workers from yearly hassle of renewal. For future applications of different kind, he set deadlines within which the board would need to dispose them off. He called for organising 'serious awareness drives' to educate workers about the welfare schemes and other benefits being provided by the government.

Indian Engineering Goods Exports To China Doubles In November 2021

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Engineering goods shipments to China has more than doubled in November, 2021 to USD 434.6 million (Rs 32,60 crore approximately) as compared to USD 205.3 million (Rs 1540 crore) in the same month last year, sector export promotion body EEPC said on Friday.

The US, however, remained the top importer of Indian engineering goods at USD 1196 million during this period, registering a growth of 36.6 per cent over USD 875 million in November, 2020.

The UAE was the third biggest market for Indian engineering goods with a total shipment value of USD 404.4 million in the previous month.

India's engineering exports continued to grow in November 2021 but a decline was observed in the value of shipment, EEPC said.



However, total engineering goods exports slowed down to USD 7.7 billion (Rs 57,000 crore approx) in November from 9.03 billion (Rs 67,000 crore in October 2021).

However, the growth was still substantial at 37.12 per cent over the exports of November 2020 at USD 5.62 billion.

"The slowdown seems to be indicating the distress exporters are facing given volatility in world demand and the uncertainty regarding the pandemic which has been triggered by the new variant Omicron. Experts around the globe have already predicted that while the global trade growth is remarkable it is not even across the countries," EEPC India Chairman Mahesh Desai said.

Nearly 48 Mn New Subscribers Joined EPF Scheme During 2017-21

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Nearly five crore new subscribers joined Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) scheme between September 2017 and October 2021, the government data showed on Friday.

According to data released by the National Statistical Office, 4,79,72,153 new subscribers joined the EPF scheme during September 2017 - October 2021.

During the same period, 5,82,56,595 new subscribers joined Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme and 30,23,250 new subscribers joined and contributed in the National Pension Scheme (NPS), as per the 'Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective - October, 2021' report. These figures give perspective on the levels of employment in the formal sector.

EPF is a mandatory savings scheme under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. It is managed under the aegis of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO). It covers every establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed.

The number of members subscribing to the EPF scheme gives an idea of the level of employment in the formal sector.

ESI Scheme is an integrated social security scheme tailored to provide socio-economic protection to the workers in the organised sector and their dependents, in contingencies, such as sickness, maternity and death or disablement due to an employment injury or occupational hazard.

The ESI scheme is governed by the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. It is applicable to non-seasonal, manufacturing establishments (other than a mine subject to the operation of the Mines Act, 1952 (35 of 1952), or a railway running shed) employing 10 or more workers. For health and medical institutions, the threshold limit is 20 or more workers.

The wage ceiling is Rs.21,000 per month. Subscribers are termed as Insured Persons (IP) and a new IP number can also arise due to a change in employment.

The number of subscribers of the ESI scheme also gives an idea of the level of employment in the formal sector.

RBI Extends Card Tokenisation Deadline By 6 Months Till Jun-End

Press Trust Of India

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation deadline by six months to June 30, 2022, in view of various representations received from industry bodies.

Card-on-file, or CoF, refers to card information stored by payment gateway and merchants to process future transactions. The earlier deadline was December 31, 2021.

"In light of various representations received in this regard, we advise...the timeline for storing of CoF data is extended by six months, ie, till June 30, 2022 and post this, such data shall be purged," RBI said in a notification addressed to all payment system providers and payment system participants.

In addition to tokenisation, it said, "Industry stakeholders may devise alternate mechanism(s) to handle any use case (including recurring e-mandates, EMI option, etc.) or post-transaction activity (including chargeback handling, dispute resolution, reward/loyalty programme, etc.) that currently involves/requires storage

of CoF data by entities other than card issuers and card networks."

Commenting on RBI's decision, Payments Council of India (PCI), the representative body of payment system participants in the country, said



it is much-needed relief for the industry which has been working hard towards the on-ground implementation of CoF and integration with various stakeholders.

"PCI will work with the industry and RBI to come up with solutions to handle any use cases such as refunds, emanates and post transaction activity including chargeback handling, dispute resolution, reward/loyalty programme, etc, that currently involves/requires storage of CoF data by entities other than card issuers and card networks," PCI Chairman and Director, Infibeam Avenues, Vishwas Patel said.

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE AND ITS ASSOCIATED HOSPITALS SRINAGAR

Subject:- Termination of Services of Mrs. Shazia Manzoor W/o Muzaffar Ahmad Kasab R/o Nowgan Shangas Anantnag, ANM, Govt. Medical College Srinagar, (GB Panth Hospital).

ORDER NO:- 859-AH OF 2021. DATED:- 23-DECEMBER-2021.

Whereas, Administrative Department vide No. ME/NG/70/2021/e-office dated 13-07-2021 have forwarded the application of Mrs. Shazia Manzoor W/o Muzaffar Ahmad Kasab R/o Nowgan Shangas Anantnag, ANM, (GB Panth/ Children Hospital) wherein they have requested to furnish the comments and leave account statement in respect of her application for grant of permission for 12 months leave without salary along with station permission;

Whereas, Medical Superintendent Govt. GB Panth/ Children Hospital Srinagar vide communication No. 1785-86 dated 05-08-2021, reported that the said official is absconding from her legitimate duties w.e.f 05-07-2021 and has left the station unauthorisedly neither submitting any leave application form nor has sought any station leaving permission from the competent authority;

Whereas, the leave for "one year leave without pay" was rejected and the Administrative Department vide this office communication No. 3460 dated 12-08-2021 was accordingly intimated that her services cannot be spared as the department is facing acute dearth of the nursing staff;

Whereas, the said ANM was served notice vide No. AH-9/Est-II/MC/2021/3844-46 dated 26-08-2021, delivered on her residential address asking therein to resume her duties and seeking the reply regarding her unauthorised absence from duties;

Whereas, the said ANM failed to resume her duties and subsequently another notice was served to her vide communication No. AH-9/Est-II/MC/2021/4551-52 dated 22-09-2021, wherein she was again impressed to resume her duties otherwise process for termination of her services shall be initiated;

Whereas, this office issued "Last and Final Show Cause Notice" to the said absconding official vide communication No. AH-9/Est-II/MC/2021/5560-64 dated 11-11-2021, through local daily Newspapers which was published in daily Srinagar News, Srinagar Times and Mirror of Kashmir on 13-11-2021 and a copy of same was also delivered on her home address against the proper acknowledgement, wherein final opportunity was provided to her to resume her duties by or before 20th of November 2021. from the date of issuance of final notice, failing which her services shall be terminated in terms of Article 128 of JKCSR without any further notice;

Whereas, the official (ANM) did not bothered to attend upon the instructions embodied in the correspondences/notices served from time to time presumably by appearing before this office or could furnish reply/ statement of defense to the notices and it clearly indicates that the official i/ not interested to resume her duties and is also difficult to ascertain her actual whereabouts whether she is staying within or outside the country;

Whereas, the said ANM is habitual of remaining on unauthorised absence as her unauthorised absence case was previously settled as "Dies Non" with stern direction not to repeat such practice in future failing which her case will be processed for termination without any prior notice;

Now, in view of above and non resumption of duties after giving ample opportunity, the appointment of Mrs. Shazia Manzoor W/o Muzaffar Ahmad Kasab R/o Nowgan Shangas Anantnag, as ANM, Govt. Medical College Srinagar (Govt. GB Panth/Children Hospital) is hereby terminated with effect from the date of her unauthorized absence from 05-07-2021 in terms of Article 128 of JK CSR 1956, read with Rule 30(vii) of JKCCA Rules 1956.

No: AH/EST-11/MC/2021/6389-93
Dated: 23-12-21
DIPK-15639/21

Sd/-
Prof. (Dr) Samia Rashid
Principal/Dean
Govt Medical college Srinagar

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE AGROSTOLOGIST KASHMIR, FOREST DEPARTMENT, SRINAGAR. e- NIT NO: - 15 of 2021-22 DATED:- 24-12-2021						
Name of Work:-		Pasture and Fodder Development in Forests by carrying out sowing of superior varieties of grass / legume seeds in patches, Planting of fodder plants, Bush clearance and all other associated operations as per site conditions involving carriage/ lifting of seeds from stores and plants from Forest Nurseries.				
For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./ Central Govt. Organizations for the following work:- SCHEME: CAMPA						
#	Particulars of Work	Adv. cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Bid Security	Class of contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion
1	i) Sowing of superior variety of grass/legume seeds in patches of size 135cmx45cmx15cm along the contours in staggered fashion. ii) Planting of naked root fodder sapling in pits of size 45cms x 45cms x 45 cms within the blanks of identified site including carriage/lifting of plants from different Nurseries of Forest Department by mechanical transport within lead of 100 kms and head load carriage including loading and unloading upto site of work with all operations as per break up. iii) Bush clearance of the site in which sowing and planting operations are to be carried out. a) Sowing in patches: 25500 No.s b) Fodder Plants: 1500 No's c) Bush Clearance: 1.5 Ha. Note:- Seeds & plants material shall be supplied departmentally. Area to be treated: 15 Ha. Location: Comptt.No. Rb-28 Naidkoh Nagbal Agrostology Division Kashmir	4.78	BSD Form	"D" Class PWD Contractor/ Forest Contractor/ JKFC Contractor	200/=	One calendar month.
The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in .						
Position of Funds: Budgeted:		Position of AA: Accorded		Position of TS: Accorded		
Publishing Date:-		24-12-2021				
Download Start Date :		24-12-2021 from 06:30 PM				
Bid submission Start Date:		24-12-2021 from 06:30 PM				
Bid submission End Date:		03-01-2022 Up to 06:30 PM				
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:		04-01-2022 at 11:30 AM in the office of the office of Agrostologist Kashmir, Forest Department, Srinagar.				
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:		To be notified separately				
TERMS & CONDITIONS						
1. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website: https://jktenders.gov.in . Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in . To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act. Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.						
2. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of Bid Security Declaration form duly filled in with time period prescribed and addressed to Divisional Forest Officer. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.						
3. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.						
4. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e BSD Form, Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/Forest Dept./JKFC duly renewed for the current year 2021-22, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document).						
5. The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.						
6. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).						
7. The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.						
8. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.						
9. All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the Detailed Tender document.						
No:- Agros/Kmr/2021/E-Tendering/864-68 Dated:- 24/12/2021 DIPK-15692/21						
						Sd/- Agrostologist Kashmir, Forest Department, Srinagar.

Of 183 Omicron Cases Analysed, 87 Fully Vaccinated With 3 Having Booster Shots, Says Govt

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Of the 358 cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus reported in India so far, 183 were analysed and it was found that 87 of them were fully vaccinated with three having received booster doses while 70 per cent were asymptomatic, the government said on Friday.

Two were partially vaccinated, seven people were unvaccinated while 16 were ineligible to receive vaccine doses in the country's national vaccination programme. The vaccination status of 73 is still unknown, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press conference.

"Of the 183 Omicron cases analysed so far, 87 cases were fully vaccinated with three -- two in Delhi and one in Mumbai -- having received booster shots, 70 per cent were asymptomatic and 61 per cent were males," he said.

Bhushan said 121 cases had foreign travel history, while in 44 cases the infected had come in contact with foreign travellers and information about 18 people were still not available.

ICMR Director-General Dr Balram Bhargava said, "The predominant strain in India continues to be Delta, including the recently identified clusters. Therefore, we need to continue with the same strategy of following Covid-appropriate behaviour and ramping up vaccination."

Infection due to Omicron variant "does not necessarily lead to severe symptomatic clinical disease". In India, about a third of all the detected cases were mildly symptomatic and the rest were asymptomatic, he underlined.

"Therefore, I want to emphasise that the treatment for Omicron infected symptomatic individuals remains the same. It does not change from that for Delta, Alpha or the Beta variant."

Noting the world is witnessing a fourth surge in Covid cases, the government on Friday cautioned people against lowering the guard, particularly during year-end festivities, even as it underlined that infection due to Omicron does not necessarily lead to severe symptomatic disease.

Of the 358 cases of Omicron variant detected so far in 17 states and Union Territories, 114 have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated at 8 am.

The country has 244 active cases of the omicron variant of coronavirus.

With China, Vajpayee sought modus vivendi: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Atal Bihari Vajpayee introduced policy corrections that reflected the end of the Cold War and the new global balance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday and noted that the former prime minister sought a modus vivendi with China that was based as much on mutual respect as on mutual interest.

Jaishankar also said the winds of change are most apparent in the Indo-Pacific and it is there that the diplomatic creativity which Vajpayee inspires should be most strongly applied.

"We are looking at a complex set of transformations that are simultaneously underway. The Indo-Pacific is witnessing both multipolarity and rebalancing," he said in his opening remarks at the Second Atal Bihari Vajpayee Memorial Lecture which was delivered by Michael Fullilove, the Executive Director of the Lowy Institute of Australia.

The Indo-Pacific is seeing great power competition as well as "middle power plus" activities, and orthodox politics including territorial differences are in sharper play, side-by-side with currencies of power like connectivity and technology, Jaishankar said.

In fact, no other landscape illustrates better the widening of our definition of national security, he said.

Talking about Vajpayee, Jaishankar said, "If we are to look at the essence of his approach to international relations, it is evident that this focuses on responding effectively to global changes."

Where the United States was concerned, former prime minister Vajpayee introduced policy corrections that reflected the end of the Cold War and the new global balance.

"At the same time, he kept India's course steady vis-à-vis Russia despite the turbulence of that era. With China, whether as Foreign Minister or as Prime Minister, he sought a modus vivendi that was based as much on mutual respect as on mutual interest," Jaishankar said.

With Pakistan, Vajpayee strenuously tried to dissuade them from their path of sponsoring cross-border terrorism, he said.

"All this, of course, was underpinned by his belief that India must develop deeper strengths at home. This found expression in the exercise of the nuclear option as it did in the economic modernisation that he presided over," the external affairs minister said.

In his lecture on "Australia, India and the Indo-Pacific: The need for strategic imagination", Fullilove compared diplomacy with cricket, saying the game of cricket is in many ways similar to the great game of the relations between states.

"Like foreign policy, cricket is a long game. A Test match can take up to five

days... things are opaque in cricket as in diplomacy. Sometimes a draw can be a win, cricket and foreign policy requires many of the same qualities including intelligence, skill, patience, discipline, toughness and imagination," he said.

Fullilove said wealth and power are shifting eastwards toward India and Australia.

"Impressive Asian economic growth in recent decades has transformed the region and lifted more than a billion people out of poverty. Emerging Asia is the most dynamic part of the world, accounting for more than half of global growth despite representing only a third of the global economy," he said.

"Bilateral relationship between New Delhi and Canberra has the character of a long innings, we started slowly but now that we have settled in we are taking our shots and the runs are flowing," Fullilove said.

He suggested establishment of a high level economic dialogue between Australia and India. The two countries should improve the interoperability between their armed forces, Fullilove said listing a slew of suggestions to strengthen partnership.

Citing a study, he said neither the US nor China would be able to wield undisputed primacy in the Indo-Pacific region.

"A bipolar future beckons. In this future, the decisions made by other Indo Pacific powers including Australia and India will be highly consequential. Our actions may well constitute the marginal difference," he said.

Security Breach Alleged During President's Thiruvananthapuram Visit



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram: The Central agencies are probing the alleged security breach that happened during President Ram Nath Kovind's visit here, official sources said on Friday. The security breach occurred when Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendran's car allegedly tried to become part of the President's convoy which was heading towards the venue of the President's programme in the city on Thursday, they said.

The Mayor's office, however, denied the allegations, saying they were not aware of such an incident. They said they came to know about the incident through the media reports.

The state government has not reacted to the developments. The President was in the state capital on Thursday for unveiling the statue of P N Panicker, considered the father of library movement in Kerala.

Sources said the central agencies are also probing the allegations that water connection was not provided to the rest room arranged for the President at the venue. Terming it as a serious issue, BJP state president K Surendran today urged the government to take action against the Mayor and the officials for their alleged lapses during the President's visit.

Concluding his four-day Kerala visit, the President left for New Delhi this morning.

US To Lift Omicron-Linked Travel Ban On Southern Africa

Agenceis

Washington: The U.S. will lift travel restrictions on eight southern African countries that it imposed to try to blunt the spread of the COVID omicron variant, the White House announced Friday. The variant, which was first detected by scientists in South Africa, has since spread around the world. The World Health Organization and

leaders in southern Africa criticized the travel ban as ineffective and unfairly damaging to local economies.

The November 29 ban barred nearly all non-U.S. citizens who had recently been in South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. The restrictions will be lifted on New Year's Eve. White House spokesman Kevin Munoz said on Twitter that the decision was recommended by

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Munoz said the temporary travel bans bought scientists necessary time to study the new virus variant and conclude that the current vaccinations are effective in blunting its impact. Omicron is now spreading rapidly throughout the U.S., including among the vaccinated, but a huge majority of those being hospitalised are unvaccinated.

The restrictions gave us time to

understand Omicron and we know our existing vaccines work against Omicron, esp boosted, Munoz tweeted.

Much about the omicron coronavirus variant remains unknown; scientists say omicron spreads even easier than other coronavirus strains, including delta. The government reports that 73% of new infections nationwide are from the omicron variant. But while breakthrough infections among vaccinated people have

become common, they have rarely led to severe illness or hospitalisation.

The rapid advance of omicron, along with more people gathering indoors during winter, has led to a major infection spike. The seven-day rolling average for U.S. COVID-19 cases climbed past 160,000 this week, according to data collected by Johns Hopkins University. That's more than double the average in late November.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Hizb Militant

Hizb was part of groups involved in several "terror crime cases".

Giving more details, he said, the killed Hizb militant assassinated Police Inspector Mohammad Ashraf Bhat at his residence in Chandpora, Kanelwan in Anantnag district last October. Ten days later, he said, Shahzad killed 3 BJP workers at YK-Pora Kulgam and in August this year, a BJP Sarpanch and his Wife at Lal-Chowk Anantnag.

"Besides, he was also involved in attack on DDC candidate Anees ul Islam Ganie at Sagam Kokernag on 04.12.2020 and in snatching weapon from a constable at Shamispora crossing in Khudwani area of Kulgam on 25.07.2021. Moreover, he was involved in various grenade lobbing incidents and attacks on security establishments in Anantnag and Kulgam areas," the police spokesperson said.

He also claimed recovery of incriminating materials; arms & ammunition including 1 AK 47 Rifle, 2 AK Magazines, 40 AK rounds and a Grenade from the encounter site

"All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation. Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated," he said.

The police spokesperson also urged people to cooperate with Police till the area at the encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any.

J&K Records

10 each, Anantnag 9, Budgam and Bandipora 8 each, Baramulla 7, Pulwama 6 and one new case each in Kulgam and Shopian districts in south Kashmir.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 14 fresh cases of virus, Doda 5 and one new case each in Rajouri, Kathua, Poonch and Ramban. No cases of Covid-19 were registered from four districts of Udhampur, Samba, Kishtwar and Reasi.

"Moreover, 142 Covid-19 patients recovered during the time, 29 from Jammu Division and 113 from Kashmir," the official said.

Also, they said that one more person succumbed to coronavirus in the Valley, taking the death toll to 4519 in J&K--2196 in Jammu and 2323 in Kashmir.

They said there was no new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) reported today. So far 50 black fungus cases have been confirmed in J&K, the officials said.

Another Snow Spell

most likely during December 26-28.

"A western disturbance of greater intensity is likely during 26 (evening) to 28 (forenoon). Due to this, light to moderate snowfall (two to three inches) in plains of Kashmir, moderate to heavy over higher reaches of J-K, Zojila-Minamarg axis, and light snowfall at scattered places of Ladakh, especially Kargil-Zaskar area," the Met dept said.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature at most places in Kashmir settled above the freezing point, officials said on Friday.

Many areas in the higher reaches of the valley, including the Gulmarg resort, had received snowfall on Thursday.

The officials said owing to the cloud cover, the minimum temperature across Kashmir, except Gulmarg and Pahalgam, settled above the freezing point on Thursday night.

Srinagar recorded a low of 2.4 degrees Celsius on Thursday night slightly down from

the previous night's 2.6 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, the gateway town to the valley, recorded a minimum temperature of 1.2 degrees Celsius, while Kokernag recorded a low of minus 1.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The mercury in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius down from 0.3 degrees Celsius the previous night.

The mercury in Gulmarg settled at a low of minus 5.1 degrees Celsius as compared to the previous night's minus 3.7 degrees Celsius.

The 40-day harshest winter period known as 'Chilla-i-Kalan' which began on Tuesday is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall.

The 'Chilla-i-Kalan' will end on January 31, but the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) and a 10-day-long 'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold). (With agency inputs)

Kumar Reviews

weather advisory from December 26.

The meeting, he said, was attended by Managing Director KPDCI, Chief Engineer JKPTCL Kashmir and Chief Engineer KPDCI besides other officers.

"Principal Secretary reviewed the preparedness and redundancy for meeting any eventuality in case of disruption in power due to adverse weather conditions. He stressed the need for immediate restoration measures in case of any outages," he said.

Kumar, the official spokesperson said, also inspected the works on augmentation of Grid Sub-Station from 105 MVA to 140 MVA which is being done under PMDP-15.

Later, he said, the Principal Secretary also inspected modernization and up gradation works for replacement of obsolete equipment in the Grid Sub-Station under PSDF which have been completed at a cost of Rs 5.20 crore.

KU To Close For

activities are conducted as per schedule", reads the notification.

"The remedial classes (offline or online mode) shall be conducted by the Departments to complete the remaining syllabus, if any, during the period of winter break", it further reads.

The announcement of winter vacations at KU, the largest seat of learning, comes a day after the Union Territory administration announced winter break in all government degree colleges in Kashmir and Jammu divisions falling under winter zone from December 27, 2021 up to February 14, 2022.

All Government Degree Colleges of Jammu division falling under Summer Zone shall observe winter vacations from December 27, 2021 to January 05, 2022, the government announced.

Stone Pelting Has

In Jammu and Kashmir, only 3500 MW of electricity was generated in 72 years, now we are initiating projects to generate double the power in just 5 years," he added.

The LG, as per the official spokesperson said

that under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, more than 24,000 houses have been completed in less than two years, whereas 3,500 houses were built in Jammu and Kashmir till March 2018.

"Even before 2022, the income of farmers has doubled in J&K, the Lt Governor said.

We have also succeeded in destroying the ecosystem of terrorism and today stone pelting has become a thing of past," Sinha said.

He further said that the poor and weaker sections of society were neglected for many years in J&K but on the "historic day" of 5 August 2019, Article 370 and Article 31A were abolished and the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir were given all the Constitutional rights.

Speaking on the occasion, the LG, as per the official spokesperson also emphasized that after 2014 country ushered in a growth process that is inclusive, caring, and equitable to all sections of society.

"The development march in the last seven and half years is not confined to a few but of all. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi the country is witnessing a growth process that is inclusive, equitable. Unprecedented steps have been taken to develop infrastructure, revive manufacturing and agriculture, and every step has a single objective- accelerated and equitable growth," he said

Govt Forms 5-Member

Department of Neurosurgery SKIMS, Soura, Dr Umar Javed Shah Dean Medical Faculty and HoD Surgical Gastroenterology/Surgical Oncology, Dr. Showkat Ali Mufti Professor & Head, Emergency Medicine Department, SKIMS, Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Koul, Professor & Head, Internal & Pulmonary Medicine, SKIMS, Soura, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Lone Professor and Head Department of CVTS, SKIMS, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Laway Professor and Head, Department of Endocrinology, SKIMS Soura, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Secretary Technical, Health & Medical Education Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, Dr. Naseer Ahmed Mir Professor & Head of Orthopedics, Post Graduate Department of Orthopedics, SKIMS Bemia, Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Untoo, Dr. Adil Hafeez Wani Professor & Head of Department of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, SKIMS, Dr. Abdul Wahid Khan Professor. Department of Psychiatry, GMC Anantnag (Academic Arrangement) and Dr. Tariq Ahmad Gojwari Professor & Head Department of Radio-diagnosis SKIMS, Soura.

The interaction with the 15 shortlisted candidates is slated to be held on December 28 with the Selection Committee, local news reports said.

Pertinently, Dr A G Ahangar whose term was extended for a period of six months in June had joined as director in July 2016, however, he was removed in January 2018 but he got the top position again in September 2019 after court directions.

Ahangar was supposed to get retired in June this year, however, he has now got extension for period of six months.(With agency inputs)

NC To Move

as the party's petition challenging the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir was pending in the Supreme Court.

However, commission chairperson Justice (retd.) Ranjana Desai countered the National Conference's argument by saying that as far as the panel was concerned she had been given

authority by the government and, therefore, she had done this job.

"But whatever the Supreme Court finally says, it will be binding on them (Commission) also. So that clears the position. Then they explained other parameters also.... We are now preparing to go to the Supreme Court," he said.

On the Supreme Court not interfering in recommendations made by previous Delimitation Commissions, Abdullah said the present commission was born after the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, which has been challenged in the top court and no decision has been pronounced on it yet.

"That is why...we are going to the Supreme Court. Others have also gone," he said.

On Minister of State in the PMO Jitendra Singh claiming after the Delimitation Commission meeting of December 20 that he and other NC members were satisfied, Abdullah said, "What did he (Singh) expect us to do. Fight? We are not goondas. We have no voting rights, we can only listen and put our objections which they have allowed us to do. And they have given us time till December 31. Our report will be there before that with our objections."

He said since the report is preliminary, the commission will see the upsurge that has taken place among various communities in Jammu and Kashmir, and reiterated his demand for holding the delimitation exercise after the next census.

Referring to the reservation of nine seats for Scheduled Tribes and seven seats for Scheduled Castes in the preliminary report of the commission, the NC leader said, "We are not against the Scheduled Tribe reservation. Without reservation also, they had 15 members. So there is nothing new."

"The Scheduled Caste (population) has also increased over the years...Kashmiri Pandits have been hankering for this for a long time. What about them, the Sikhs and the people of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir? I am absolutely certain it is going to further divide communities and that is a tragedy," he said.

On the criticism from certain quarters over its participation in the second meeting of the Delimitation Commission, the National Conference leader said, "If we did not participate, they would still criticise us. So criticism is part of this life and we do not get worried by criticism. They (critics) give us strength. Because we participated, we realised what is in it and what have they done? How have they done?"

Asked about his participation in a meeting chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi in Delhi recently, Abdullah said, "The unity is essential if we want to save this nation, (protect it from) further division and further damage to its existence."

"The unity is a priority and luckily Gandhi's efforts are to that effect. We should appreciate that she has taken this step. It is a good beginning and I am sure this will culminate in a good unity before the 2024 election. I am sure more meetings will take place, bringing more people together as we alone cannot beat the communal forces. She has to be part of (the united opposition)," Abdullah said.

On the differences between the Congress and the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress, he said things have to be ironed out and "those will be ironed out, there is no doubt about it."

"Past has to be put behind us if we want to work on the future," he said, expressing hope that "there will be unity of purpose" among the opposition parties.

"So this is what our intentions are that we

should get this India back on the rails that we all dreamt of and we no longer have the fear that we would be put under various draconian laws and in prison," Abdullah said.

Asked about the investigations of the Enforcement Directorate and the CBI against him, he said he will come out of these as a much stronger person. "It does not matter. This is part of life which you have to face. You do not run away from it and I will come back as a much stronger person," he said.

Soz Says Politicians

"losing proposition for the mainstream to agitate this matter in a court of law."

"...the J&K mainstream political class has a compulsion to agitate this matter before the judiciary, also! But, then, public opinion on this issue is the best course available to the mainstream political class. It is that, it (the political class) should agitate this matter before the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is essentially a political issue and it should be agitated before the 'Awami Adalat'!" he said.

Soz said a powerful, democratic, peaceful and sustained public movement is the answer to the Delimitation Commission's latest recommendations!

"The sooner we do it, the better!" he added. (Agencies)

LG Greet People

of sharing and brotherhood. The festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ is an occasion to celebrate and imbibe Lord Christ's message of peace, love, compassion and forgiveness. We must rededicate ourselves for the welfare of humankind," Sinha said.

"May the Christmas this year usher in peace and joy for all," he added.

2 LeT Workers

of the district, a police spokesperson said. He said incriminating material of LeT, 2 Hand Grenades, 2 AK-47 Magazines, 30 live AK-47 rounds were recovered from their possession.

During preliminary investigation, the police spokesperson said that it surfaced that both the arrested militant associates have been in touch with LeT commanders and were involved in providing logistics support to militants including providing shelter, transportation of arms & ammunition in the areas of Mochwa, Kralpora, Chattergam, Sathsoo, Nowgam, Chadoora and other areas of the district.

"In this connection a case under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Chadoora and further investigation is going on," he said.

He further said that a case FIR number 208/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Chadoora.

CASO Conducted

on the basis of inputs suggesting movement of militants in the area, reports said.

The joint team, as per local news agency KNT, carried out door-to-door searches and subjected the people to identity checks.

Grenade Found

Iqra Masjid Magarmal Bagh here, locals found the grenade and accordingly informed police, according to news agency GNS.

Later a bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot and it defused the device without causing any damage, the officer added.

Harbhajan Singh Retires From All Forms Of Cricket

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who became the first Indian bowler to grab a Test hat-trick in a memorable international career, announced retirement from all forms of cricket on Friday, saying that he is finally communicating what has been on his mind for the past few years.

The 41-year-old from Punjab took 417 wickets in 103 Tests, 269 wickets in 236 ODIs and 25 scalps in 28 T20Is in his illustrious career, which began in 1998.

"All good things come to an end and today as I bid adieu to the game that has given me everything in life, I would like to thank everyone who made this 23-year-long journey beautiful and memorable," he tweeted. "From the narrow lanes of Jalandhar to becoming the Turbanator of Team India, it has been a beautiful journey of past 25 years," he said.

Harbhajan, who made his India debut during an ODI against New Zealand at Sharjah in 1998, last played for the country in March 2016 during a T20I against the UAE at Dhaka.

He said he harboured hopes of



retiring in India colours but that could not materialise.

"Like all cricketers, I too wanted to bade adieu in Indian jersey but fate had something else in store for me," he said in a YouTube video posted alongside his tweet.

"...there comes a time when you have to take some tough decisions and have to move on in life. Mentally I had retired long back but couldn't announce it. I haven't been active in cricket," he added.

Harbhajan had featured in a few matches during the first phase of last IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders but didn't play in the UAE leg of the league. One of the most memorable moments in his international career was when he snapped 32 wickets in three Tests, including the first Test hat-trick by an Indian, against Australia in March 2001. That historic Test triumph is one of most iconic moments in Indian cricket.

VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY 2021

Dhawan's All-Round Show Takes HP To Final, To Face TN

Press Trust of India

JAIPUR: Rishi Dhawan led from the front with an all-round show as Himachal Pradesh beat Services by 77 runs in the semi-final at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Friday, to set up the title clash against Tamil Nadu in the Vijay Hazare Trophy domestic One-Day championship.

Batting at No 6, the Himachal Pradesh skipper top-scored with a 77-ball 84 to help his side recover from a mid-innings collapse and prop up a fighting 281 for six.

In reply, Services were bundled out for 204 in 46.1 overs with Dhawan being the wreck-in-chief with figures of four for 27 from 8.1 overs. Earlier, Dhawan hit nine boundaries and one six, and got perfect support from Akash Vasishth, who smacked four boundaries and two sixes in his quickfire 45 not out from 29 balls.

Dhawan arrested the Himachal slide, playing a perfect fiddle to the well-set Chopra, the duo stitching



88 runs for the fifth wicket.

Chopra, however, failed to convert his start and got out in the 42nd over and then it was Dhawan-Vasishth show as they seized the momentum in the death overs with their counter-attacking show.

The duo were involved in an entertaining 83-run partnership before Dhawan got out in the final over. Dhawan, the seam-bowling all-rounder, then came to the party with the ball, taking the first two Services wickets—Lakhan Singh (7) and Mohit Ahlawat (6) — for 36 runs inside 13 overs.



BANDIPORA-BORN ALL-ROUNDER NASIR LONE with Punjab Kings coach Anil Kumble. The cricketer uploaded the picture on his Instagram handle on Friday, with the caption: "Being surrounded by someone who you saw on TV in childhood is a feeling like no other. You learn from even the way they speak. I was glad to meet a legend like Anil Kumble Sir." 25-year-old Nasir was recently called up for trials by IPL teams Mumbai Indians and PBKS.

Image via Instagram/nasir4842

DDC Budgam Inaugurates Playfield At Chadoora

Assures sports related facilities, support to sports loving youth

Observer News Service

BUDGAM: District Development Commissioner, (DDC) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Friday inaugurated a newly developed playfield at village Gowharpora in Chadoora Tehsil.

The playground has been established at an estimated cost of Rs. 17.50 lacs, by the Rural Development Department under MGNREGA scheme.

On the occasion, DDC assured that better sports related facilities, infrastructure and support shall be provided to the sports loving youth in the district.

He said the facility of the playground shall provide a platform to the local youth to showcase their talent and perform effectively.

He further directed the concerned to carry out the im-



provement work including fencing, drainage and other related works on the ground, so that youth is able to utilize the facility without any hassle.

The playfield was a long pending demand of youth from village Kuzwara, Gowharpora, Kulgtreh, Nowbugh, Brarigund and Sanzipora.

On the occasion, the DDC also inaugurated a friendly

cricket match between two local teams.

Among others, ACD Budgam, BDO and other concerned were present on the occasion.

The locals hailed the efforts of the District administration for creating such a facility in the area.

England Look To Arrest Ashes Slide In Melbourne



Agencies

MELBOURNE: England have never come back from a 2-0 deficit to win an Ashes series but that is the task that faces Joe Root's team when they walk out in front of a Boxing Day crowd at the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the third Test on Sunday.

Cricket enthusiasts around the world would probably be satisfied with something resembling a contest after the latest edition of the game's most iconic series opened with thumping victories for Australia in Brisbane and Adelaide.

Controversial selections, brittle batting and toothless bowling from the tourists have all contributed to nine days of cricket which have been competitive only in very short patches.

Root has made it clear he expects a vast improvement from his whole team at the MCG as England look to win an Ashes Test in Australia for the first time in nearly 11 years.

"It has to be (better), simple as that," he said on Friday. "The

two performances we've put out have not been good enough, there've been basic mistakes. We've addressed it, spoken about it and I expect us to be a lot better."

England will not name a final line-up until the toss but changes are expected, with Zak Crawley being heavily backed to come into the side in place of one of the struggling openers, Rory Burns and Haseeb Hameed.

"The most important thing is we pick a team that we think is going to win it," Root added. "We have to win this game to make sure the series stays alive."

While everything has turned to dust for the tourists over the last few weeks, Australia have negotiated every apparent banana skin with alacrity.

Paceman Josh Hazlewood looks set to sit out a second consecutive test with a side strain but Jhye Richardson and Michael Neser proved more than adequate replacements in Adelaide, where the former took 5-42 in the final innings.

Japan Won't Send Government Delegation To Beijing Olympics

Agencies

TOKYO: Japan announced Friday it won't send a delegation of ministers to represent the government at the Beijing Games but three Olympic officials will attend, a mixed response to a US-led move to boycott the games to protest China's human rights conditions. Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told a regular news conference that We have no plans to send a government delegation.

He said Tokyo Olympic

Organizing Committee President Seiko Hashimoto, Japanese Olympic Committee President Yasuhiro Yamashita and Kazuyuki Mori, the president of the Japan Paralympic Committee, will attend.

Matsuno said the three officials are attending at the invitation of the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees to represent the IOC and IPC.

Asked if it's a diplomatic boycott, Matsuno responded by saying: "We don't use a particular term to describe how we attend."



BEIJING 2022

8 Pune Cyclist Set Out For 4000km K2K Expedition

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A team of 8 cyclists from Pune on Friday morning set out for 4000 kilometers Kashmir to Kanyakumari (K2K) Unsupported cycling expedition under the theme "Save Environment" & "Save Mankind" here at Ghantaghar (Clock Tower) Lal Chowk, Srinagar.

The unsupported cycling expedition was flagged off by President JK Mountain Biking Association Riyaz Wani, along with Secretary JK MBA, Asif Bhat.



Wani while speaking on the occasion called the expedition a historic movement that a Team of eight cyclists are attempting to set a record "as a Team". The team of cyclists from Pune, Maharashtra is aiming to complete the

expedition in around 14 days by pedalling for around 10 to 15 hours daily.

The Team began the ride at 6:24 am from the clock tower, and is expected to reach Udhampur in the first leg.

Team will also apply for

World Ultra Cycling Association (WUCA), USA to set the record as Team to complete the 4000 kilometers stretch via Srinagar, Udhampur, Jalandhar, Fatehabad, Sikar, Beawar, Rajasthan, Savli, Gujarat, Navi Mumbai, Karvar Karnataka, Trissar Kerla, Kollam Kerala, and finally Kanyakumari.

Speaking at the occasion, Team Leader Vijay thanked JK MBA for supporting the expedition and named the expedition as "Save Environment & Save Mankind" to spread awareness and importance of fitness as

well as nature care by riding through the longest route on nation's map.

"With our actions, we want to let people breathe fresh air, especially those who cannot exercise. It does make a difference when we make our actions larger than usual and hence this attempt," he added.

The other members of team are Subhash Waje, Vijay Gavane, Sampat Chaudhari, Sachin Nemade, Sandeep Udhane, Navnath Rodage, Sheikh Ahmad, Santosh Zende, all from Noval Athletes Association, Pune, (CNS)

COVID-19 Outbreak Claims Another Premier League Match

Agencies

LONDON: A coronavirus outbreak at Everton has forced the postponement of the club's match at Burnley, the Premier League said Friday.

It's the third match of the Boxing Day lineup to be postponed as part of a Sunday program that still features six games.

The Premier League has now called off 13 matches because of coronavirus issues in two weeks, with players having to isolate after testing positive or if they are unvaccinated and a close contact of a COVID-19 case.

Everton had asked for the postponement citing virus cases and injuries, and the league's board "regrettably approved" the request. "The Board reviewed the club's request today to postpone the match following further injuries to their squad. They concluded that the club will not be able to fulfill their fixture this weekend as a result of an insufficient number of players available to play due to COVID-19 cases and injuries," the league said in a statement.

On Thursday, coronavirus outbreaks at Leeds and Watford forced postponements of their Sunday matches. Leeds was scheduled to travel to Liverpool and Watford was set to play at Wolverhampton.

"While recognizing a number of clubs are experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks, it is the clubs' and the league's collective intention to continue the current fixture schedule where safely possible," the league said.



Juventus Lost Their DNA After Ronaldo's Arrival: Buffon

Agencies

TURIN: Juventus great Gianluigi Buffon said Cristiano Ronaldo's arrival at the club in 2018 ultimately led to them losing their "DNA of being a team".

Ronaldo, now back at Manchester United for a second spell, scored 101 goals in 135 appearances for Juventus and won Serie A twice but the club did not progress beyond the Champions League quarter-final stage during his three years there.

Buffon returned to his first club Parma in June after nearly two decades at Juventus — he spent the 2018-19 season at Paris St Germain — where he won 10 Serie A titles.

"Juventus had the chance to win the Champions League the first year he arrived, which was the year I was at Paris St Germain, and I couldn't figure out what happened," Buffon told American broadcast network.

"When I returned, I worked with Ronaldo for two years and we did well together, but I think Juventus lost that DNA of being a team. "We reached the Champions League final in 2017 because we were a side full of experience, but above all we were a single unit and there was this competition for places within the group that was very strong. We lost that with Ronaldo."



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE - HOSPITAL BEMINA SRINAGAR (J&K)-190017 DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHITRY

Sub: Conduct of written test (Objective Type) for engagement of Medical Officer on contractual basis advertised vide Notification No. 01 SKIMS MCH OF 2021 dated 18.09.2021.

NOTICE

It is notified for information of all the candidates who have applied for the post of Medical Officer on contractual basis for Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at SKIMS Medical College, Bemina advertised vide Notice No. 01 SKIMS MCH OF 2021 dated 18.09.2021 that their written test (Object Type) shall be held on 1st of January 2022 at 1.30 PM at Lecture Hall Complex, SKIMS Medical College, Bemina. The candidates are directed to report one hour before to the examination The list of eligible candidates for the post of Medical Officer is available on the official website of SKIMS Medical College, Bemina i.e. www.skimsmc.edu.in. The eligible candidates are advised to visit the aforementioned website from 27.12.2021 at 1.00 PM onwards to download the Roll No. slips/Admit Cards or can collect their admit card from the Department of Psychiatry, SKIMS Medical College/Hospital, Bemina. No candidate shall be allowed to sit in the examination hall without Roll No. Slip/Admit Card. The examination will be of 60 minutes duration with 50 objective multiple choice questions and merit list shall be drawn accordingly. There shall be no negative marking.

The candidates appearing in the written test shall not be allowed to carry any electronic gadgets such as calculators, mobile phones, Bluetooth devices, scanning devices, pagers, headphone, earplugs, I-Pad, tablets, PC or any other computing/communication devices into the written-test venue. The candidates are advised to bring blue/black ball point pen with them.

Note: No TA/DA shall be paid for participation in the written test.

No. SKIMS/MCH/PSY/2021/ 545-52
Dated: 23-12-2021
DIPK-NB-6150/21

(Dr. Abdul Majid Gania)
Prof. & HOD Psychiatry &
Nodal Officer, ATF Scheme

No Evidence Of Sacrilege In Kapurthala, FIR To Be Amended: Punjab CM

Agenceis

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi on Friday said that no evidence of sacrilege has been found in the Kapurthala case, wherein a man was lynched.

Channi also said that the FIR in the case will be amended and probed accordingly.

Addressing a press conference, Channi said, "In Kapurthala (killing of a man for alleged sacrilege), no evidence that sacrilege was done. The matter is being probed... FIR to be amended."

The postmortem of the unidentified man has revealed an

"There is also a mark of inserting a sharp object into the chest," he added while also saying that the cut mark on the left side of his throat reveals that his breathing tube was cut.

"We have taken DNA samples for identification of the body," he added.

The last rites of the man were performed by the Municipal Corporation after the postmortem.

On December 19, an unidentified man was allegedly beaten to death by locals at Nizampur in Punjab's Kapurthala district for allegedly disrespecting the 'Nishan Sahib' at the village Gurudwara.



attack with a sharp weapon.

"It has been revealed in the postmortem that he was attacked over with a sharp weapon leading to multiple injuries. There are over 30 sharp cut marks on the body including neck, head and hip," executive Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Dr Narinder Singh informed on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General, Jalandhar Range, GS Dhillon had said that as per investigation there was no visible sign of sacrilege and the police is investigating the allegations.

Videos of people beating up the man who allegedly attempted sacrilege have gone viral on the Internet.

FIR Lodged Over 'Hate' Speeches At Dharma Sansad In Haridwar

Agenceis

Dehradun: No arrest has been made yet in connection with alleged hate speeches delivered at a "Dharma Sansad" held in Uttarakhand's Haridwar recently to incite violence against the minorities, police said on Friday.

An FIR has been lodged against Jitendra Narayan Tyagi, who was earlier known as Waseem Rizvi, and others in connection with the event on the basis of a complaint filed by a Jwalapur resident, Haridwar Kotwali Station House Officer (SHO) Rakinder Singh said, adding that an investigation in the matter is underway.

Tyagi changed his name from Waseem Rizvi after converting to Hinduism earlier this month, he said.

"We have also received some footage of the event from the complainant, which are being looked into," the SHO said.

Asked whether arrests are likely to be made, he said that may happen only after the conclusion of the probe.

Superintendent of Police (city), Haridwar Swatantra Kumar also said the investigation on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc. and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, he said.

Extremely provocative speeches were allegedly made by the participants at the three-

day event held at the Ved Niketan Dham in Haridwar last week.

On Thursday, a senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader demanded immediate action against the organisers and the speakers of the event.

TMC's national spokesperson Saket Gokhale submitted a complaint at the Jwalapur police station, asking the SHO to register an FIR in the matter within 24 hours.

Gokhale, who shared a copy of his complaint on Twitter, also set a deadline of December 27 for the police to arrest the organisers of the "Dharma Sansad" and those who allegedly delivered inflammatory speeches against Muslims and other minorities at the event.

If an FIR is not registered against those involved within 24 hours, a plaint will be submitted to the judicial magistrate, the TMC leader said in his complaint to the SHO.

At the event, several speakers allegedly made inflammatory and provocative speeches, calling for the killing of the members of minority communities and asking people to take up arms and shoot a former prime minister of the country.

Gokhale also shared links on Twitter of video clips purportedly of the hate speeches delivered at the event.

The "Dharma Sansad" was organised by Yati Narasimhanand Giri of the Juna Akhada, who is already under police scanner for making hate speeches and inciting violence against the minorities in the past. --- PTI

World Witnessing 4th Covid Surge: Govt Cautions People Against Lowering Guard



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Noting that the world is witnessing a fourth surge in COVID-19 cases, the government on Friday cautioned people against lowering the guard, particularly during year-end festivities.

It urged people to avoid crowding and unnecessary travel and stressed on COVID-19-appropriate behaviour and expedited vaccination.

Addressing a joint press conference on the pandemic, a senior official said the predominant strain in India continued to be Delta, including in recently identified clusters.

India has so far reported 358 cases of the Omicron variant, of which 183 were analysed and 121 of them were found to have foreign travel history.

Of the 183 Omicron cases

analysed so far, 91 per cent were fully vaccinated with three having booster shots, 70 per cent were asymptomatic, and 61 per cent were males, the government said.

Citing the World Health Organisation's findings, the government said Omicron has significant growth advantage over Delta and is spreading fast through communities with a doubling time of 1.5 to 3 days.

The world is witnessing a fourth surge in COVID-19 cases and having an overall positivity rate of 6.1 per cent.

The government said the COVID-19 case positivity rate in Kerala and Mizoram is much higher than national average and a cause for concern.

It said 20 districts across country were reporting a weekly positivity rate between 5 and 10 per cent and two districts over 10 per cent.

The government cautioned people against lowering the guard, particularly during Christmas and New Year festivities.

It said about 61 per cent of India's adults are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and 89 per cent have been administered the first dose.

In view of the emergence of the Omicron variant, the government appealed to the private health sector to be ready as it has to play an important role in managing the pandemic.

According to the Union Health Ministry data updated at 8 am, India recorded 6,650 new coronavirus infections, taking its tally of cases to 3,47,72,626, while the count of active cases has declined to 77,516.

The death toll due to the disease has climbed to 4,79,133, with 374 daily fatalities being recorded. PTI

85-Year-Old Farmer Acquitted After 400 Hearings In 35 Years

Agenceis

SHAMLI (UP): Dharampal Singh, 85, has finally been acquitted for want of evidence by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate.

It took him 35 years of a legal battle and more than 400 hearings to prove his innocence. He was booked in 1986 for allegedly making pesticide illegally in his house.

Dharampal Singh, a farmer from Haran village in Shamli district, said after his acquittal, "It feels like a huge burden has been lifted from my shoulder." His brother, Kunwarpal, was a co-accused but he died five years ago.

Another person, Liyaqat Ali, booked in the case was earlier declared an absconder by court.

"I have lost my reputation, money and mental peace during the long legal battle. It took long to get justice, but now I am happy that truth has prevailed. I would like to thank the honourable court for giving me relief. I have lost a lot of money and time



making rounds to court for appearing in nearly 400 hearings in the case," he told reporters.

In November 1986, Thana Bhawan police booked two brothers, Dharampal and Kunwarpal, and one Liyaqat Ali for allegedly making pesticide without licence. Police had also claimed to have recovered 26 bags of pesticide while they were being loaded into a truck.

The three were booked under various sections of IPC, including section 420, and arrested them. After spending 18 days in jail, the three were released on bail.

Tamil Nadu Doctors Reportedly Taking Covid-19 Vax Booster Doses In Secret



Agenceis

CHENNAI: Several doctors in Tamil Nadu are reportedly taking booster doses of coronavirus vaccine---yet unauthorised by the government---in secret, sources said.

Sources in the Health Department said that many doctors are taking booster doses from private hospitals, while some of them are taking the boosters from government hospitals themselves using the vials that remain unused.

A senior doctor at a private Chennai hospital said: "Global studies in latest medical journals reveal that the antibody levels even after the second dose of vaccines are much less and hence, booster doses are necessary." Some doctors also said that it was the doctor community who had taken the first dose of the vaccine and the duration of Covishield vaccines was "low".

However, state's Director of Public Health, Dr. T.S. Selvavi-

mayagam, said that the Central Government has approved only two doses of vaccine and "taking more doses will be a violation of the Government of India norms".

On the other hand, doctors say that they have co-morbidities and have for long been waiting for government approval.

"We have waited for long for the government approval to booster doses. This will lead to us curtailing our work as we have several co-morbidities and require a booster dose," a senior doctor, who is the former Head of the Department of Medicine at a leading state government medical college, said.

Many doctors are taking Covishield as a booster dose if they had taken Covaxin earlier and vice versa. Doctors said that mixing of two different vaccines has increased the antibody levels of the person and immunology studies conducted by the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) have also shown that mixed vaccines have a better effect.

Third Covid Wave In India May Peak In Early Feb: IIT-Kanpur Study

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India may peak by February 3, 2022, claims a modelling study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. However, the forecast is based on the assumption that India will follow the trends of rise in cases seen in many countries globally driven by the Omicron variant of coronavirus.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv on December 21, used a statistical tool named the Gaussian Mixture model to forecast the third wave.

In their study, the researchers used data from countries such as the US, UK, Germany, and Russia that are already facing the third Covid-19 wave.

They modelled the daily data of cases in these countries to predict the impact and timeline for the third wave in India.

The study also used the data from the first and second waves in India, considering the number of

cases with respect to time.

The model forecasts India's third wave of Covid-19 to peak in the beginning of February 2022.

"The cases start rising around 15 December 2021 and the peak of the third wave will occur on Thursday, 3 February 2022," they wrote in the research paper.

The authors of the study noted that the conclusions are based on the assumptions that "a third wave of Covid-19 may hit the country, and will follow the trends happening around the world."

However, the researchers noted that the exact peak number of cases cannot be estimated accurately with the study as it did not consider the vaccination data of the population.

The research team comprised of Sabara Parshad Rajeshbhai, Subhra Sankar Dhar, and Shalabh, all from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at IIT Kanpur.

The authors noted that the vaccination campaign by the union government is a good initiative but it will take some time to reach "100 per cent efficacy".

"In many countries like the US, UK, Germany, Russia, the majority of the people have been vaccinated but still they are currently facing the third wave," the authors explained.

"So, India and other countries have to build up the defences and be prepared for another wave so that it is not as devastating as the earlier ones," they added.

According to the National Covid-19 Supermodel Committee, the third wave of Covid-19 is expected to peak in early next year but would be milder than the second wave.

The members of the committee said last week that daily caseload in India is expected to increase once Omicron starts displacing Delta as the dominant variant.

India on Friday recorded 122 cases of the Omicron variant of coronavirus in a span of 24 hours, the highest so far, pushing its tally in the country to 358.

Overall, the country reported 6,650 fresh Covid-19 cases, increasing the country's caseload to 3,47,72,626, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said. --- PTI



24th year OF PUBLICATION

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